



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 7985

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
✓ E	WO 98 44151 A (FARINELLI LAURENT ; KAWASHIMA ERIC (CH); MAYER PASCAL (CH); GLAXO G) 8 October 1998 * the whole document *	1-5	C12Q1/68
✓ E	WO 98 44152 A (FARINELLI LAURENT ; MAYER PASCAL (CH); KAWASHIMA ERIC H (CH); GLAXO) 8 October 1998 * the whole document *	1-5	
✓ D,X	WO 98 36094 A (MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES) 20 August 1998 * page 11, line 27 - line 30; figure 2 *	1-5	
✓ X	WO 96 04404 A (MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES INC ; WHITEHEAD FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEA (US); ADAM) 15 February 1996 * the whole document *	1-5	
✓ A	WO 95 33073 A (TEPNEL MEDICAL LTD ; MINTER STEPHEN JOHN (GB)) 7 December 1995 * the whole document *	1-5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
✓ A	WO 94 02634 A (UNIV SOUTH AUSTRALIA ; ADELAIDE CHILDREN S HOSPITAL (AU); HARRIS RA) 3 February 1994 * claim 1 *	1	C12Q
✓ D,A	EP 0 665 293 A (HAMAMATSU PHOTONICS KK) 2 August 1995 * the whole document *	1	
✓ A	EP 0 543 484 A (JAPAN RES DEV CORP ; YOKOI HARUHIKO (JP)) 26 May 1993 see abstract		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 10 March 1999	Examiner Osborne, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 98 30 7985

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

10-03-1999

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9844151 A	08-10-1998	AU 6846698 A	22-10-1998
		AU 6846798 A	22-10-1998
		WO 9844152 A	08-10-1998
WO 9844152 A	08-10-1998	AU 6846698 A	22-10-1998
		AU 6846798 A	22-10-1998
		WO 9844151 A	08-10-1998
WO 9836094 A	20-08-1998	AU 6146098 A	08-09-1998
WO 9604404 A	15-02-1996	US 5641658 A	24-06-1997
		CA 2196604 A	15-02-1996
		EP 0784701 A	23-07-1997
		JP 10505492 T	02-06-1998
WO 9533073 A	07-12-1995	AU 2572895 A	21-12-1995
		CA 2191426 A	07-12-1995
		CN 1152946 A	25-06-1997
		EP 0763135 A	19-03-1997
		FI 964735 A	27-01-1997
		JP 10500862 T	27-01-1998
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WO 9402634 A	03-02-1994	AU 698934 B	12-11-1998
		AU 4551193 A	14-02-1994
		CA 2140877 A	03-02-1994
		EP 0656068 A	07-06-1995
		US 5849544 A	15-12-1998
EP 0665293 A	02-08-1995	JP 7203998 A	08-08-1995
EP 0543484 A	26-05-1993	CA 2077135 A	01-03-1993
		JP 7255482 A	09-10-1995
		US 5665572 A	09-09-1997



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Europäisches
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File 68184
18 MAR 1999
Date 6A
Datum/Date 16.03.99

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. 40.17.68184	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 98307985.6-2116-
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire APPLIED RESEARCH SYSTEMS ARS HOLDING N.V.	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☐ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



W/V

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 40.17.68184/001	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 99/ 03248	International filing date (day/month/year) 30/09/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 30/09/1998
Applicant APPLIED RESEARCH SYSTEMS ARS HOLDING N.V. et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.
☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
- ☒ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☒ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☒ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☒ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- ☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- ☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

- ☐ as suggested by the applicant.
- ☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- ☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☒ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

GB 99/03248

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C12Q1/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C12Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E ✓	WO 98 44151 A (FARINELLI LAURENT ; KAWASHIMA ERIC (CH); MAYER PASCAL (CH); GLAXO G) 8 October 1998 (1998-10-08) the whole document	1, 5, 19, 24-31
E ✓	WO 98 44152 A (FARINELLI LAURENT ; MAYER PASCAL (CH); KAWASHIMA ERIC H (CH); GLAXO) 8 October 1998 (1998-10-08) the whole document	1, 5, 19, 24-31
X ✓	WO 98 36094 A (MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES) 20 August 1998 (1998-08-20) cited in the application page 11, line 27 - line 30; figure 2 — -/-	1, 5, 19, 24-31

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 February 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/02/2000

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Authorized officer

Osborne, H

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

GB 99/03248

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 96 04404 A (MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES INC ;WHITEHEAD FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEA (US); ADAM) 15 February 1996 (1996-02-15) the whole document	1, 5, 19, 24-31
A	WO 95 33073 A (TEPNEL MEDICAL LTD ;MINTER STEPHEN JOHN (GB)) 7 December 1995 (1995-12-07) the whole document	1, 5, 24-31
A	WO 94 02634 A (UNIV SOUTH AUSTRALIA ;ADELAIDE CHILDREN S HOSPITAL (AU); HARRIS RA) 3 February 1994 (1994-02-03) claim 1	1
X	EP 0 665 293 A (HAMAMATSU PHOTONICS KK) 2 August 1995 (1995-08-02) cited in the application	19
A	the whole document	1
A	STERKY F ET AL: "Direct sequencing of bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs) and prokaryotic genomes by biotin-capture PCR" JOURNAL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, NL, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS, AMSTERDAM, vol. 60, no. 1-2, 5 February 1998 (1998-02-05), pages 119-129, XP004115549 ISSN: 0168-1656 the whole document	1, 4-7
A	EP 0 543 484 A (JAPAN RES DEV CORP ;YOKOI HARUHIKO (JP)) 26 May 1993 (1993-05-26) see abstract	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

GB 99/03248

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9844151	A	08-10-1998	AU 6846698 A EP 0972081 A AU 6846798 A EP 0975802 A WO 9844152 A	22-10-1998 19-01-2000 22-10-1998 02-02-2000 08-10-1998
WO 9844152	A	08-10-1998	AU 6846698 A AU 6846798 A EP 0972081 A EP 0975802 A WO 9844151 A	22-10-1998 22-10-1998 19-01-2000 02-02-2000 08-10-1998
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WO 9402634	A	03-02-1994	AU 698934 B AU 4551193 A CA 2140877 A DE 69327326 D EP 0656068 A US 5849544 A	12-11-1998 14-02-1994 03-02-1994 20-01-2000 07-06-1995 15-12-1998
EP 0665293	A	02-08-1995	JP 7203998 A	08-08-1995
EP 0543484	A	26-05-1993	CA 2077135 A JP 7255482 A US 5665572 A	01-03-1993 09-10-1995 09-09-1997

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 98/00961

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9604404 A	15-02-1996	US 5641658 A CA 2196604 A EP 0784701 A JP 10505492 T	24-06-1997 15-02-1996 23-07-1997 02-06-1998
WO 9632504 A	17-10-1996	AU 5544696 A CA 2218188 A EP 0830460 A	30-10-1996 17-10-1996 25-03-1998
EP 0665293 A	02-08-1995	JP 7203998 A	08-08-1995
WO 9304199 A	04-03-1993	NONE	
WO 9106678 A	16-05-1991	CA 2044616 A EP 0450060 A	27-04-1991 09-10-1991
US 5589332 A	31-12-1996	AU 675482 B AU 5739694 A EP 0681613 A JP 8507202 T WO 9413833 A	06-02-1997 04-07-1994 15-11-1995 06-08-1996 23-06-1994

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 6 C12Q1/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C12Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 96 04404 A (MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES INC ;WHITEHEAD FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEA (US); ADAM) 15 February 1996	1-29, 48-56, 63,64
Y	see the whole document	30-47, 57-62
Y	WO 96 32504 A (UNIV BOSTON) 17 October 1996 see the whole document	30-47
Y	OROSKAR ET AL.: "DETECTION OF IMMOBILIZED AMPLICONS BY ELISA-LIKE TECHNIQUES" CLIN.CHEM., vol. 42, no. 9, 1996, pages 1547-1555, XP002074418 cited in the application see the whole document	57-59
-/--		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
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- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 August 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

01/09/1998

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/GB 98/00961

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	YERSHOV ET AL.: "DNA ANALYSIS AND DIAGNOSTIC ON OLIGONUCLEOTIDE MICROCHIPS" PNAS, vol. 93, May 1996, pages 4913-4918, XP002074419 cited in the application see the whole document	60-62
A	LOCKHART ET AL.: "EXPRESSION MONITORING BY HYBRIDIZATION TO HIGH-DENSITY OLIGONUCLEOTIDE ARRAYS" NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY, vol. 14, 14 December 1996, pages 1675-1680, XP002074420 cited in the application see the whole document	1-64
A	EP 0 665 293 A (HAMAMATSU PHOTONICS KK) 2 August 1995 see abstract	1-64
A	FU D -J ET AL: "SEQUENCING DOUBLE-STRANDED DNA BY STRAND DISPLACEMENT" NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEARCH, vol. 25, no. 3, 1997, pages 677-679, XP000196977 see the whole document	1-64
A	WO 93 04199 A (SCIENT GENERICS LTD) 4 March 1993 see the whole document	1-64
A	WO 91 06678 A (STANFORD RES INST INT ;TSIEN ROGER Y (US)) 16 May 1991 see the whole document	1-64
A	US 5 589 332 A (SHIH ANDY ET AL) 31 December 1996 see the whole document	19,20

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9604404	A	15-02-1996	US 5641658 A	24-06-1997
			CA 2196604 A	15-02-1996
			EP 0784701 A	23-07-1997
			JP 10505492 T	02-06-1998
WO 9632504	A	17-10-1996	AU 5544696 A	30-10-1996
			CA 2218188 A	17-10-1996
			EP 0830460 A	25-03-1998
EP 0665293	A	02-08-1995	JP 7203998 A	08-08-1995
WO 9304199	A	04-03-1993	NONE	
WO 9106678	A	16-05-1991	CA 2044616 A	27-04-1991
			EP 0450060 A	09-10-1991
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			AU 5739694 A	04-07-1994
			EP 0681613 A	15-11-1995
			JP 8507202 T	06-08-1996
			WO 9413833 A	23-06-1994

REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMBT

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT



REC'D 02 NOV 2000

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PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 40.17.68184/001		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB99/03248	International filing date (day/month/year) 30/09/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 30/09/1998	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C12Q1/68			
Applicant APPLIED RESEARCH SYSTEMS ARS HOLDING N.V. et al.			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 7 sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the reportII <input type="checkbox"/> PriorityIII <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicabilityIV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of inventionV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statementVI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain documents citedVII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international applicationVIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application			
Date of submission of the demand 18/04/2000		Date of completion of this report 30.10.2000	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized officer von Ballmoos, P Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8174 	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB99/03248

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-3,5-76	as originally filed	
4	with telefax of	05/10/2000

Claims, No.:

1-34	with telefax of	05/10/2000
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Drawings, sheets:

1/10-10/10	as originally filed
------------	---------------------

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB99/03248

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-34
	No:	Claims	---
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	19-30, 33-34
	No:	Claims	1-18, 31-32
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-34
	No:	Claims	---

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VI. Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Part V

Reference is made to the following documents.

D1 WO 98/36094

D2 WO 96/04404

a) Independent claims 1, 4 and 31

The closest prior art for the assessment of these claims is represented by D1 or D2.

D1 discloses a method for performing amplification of nucleic acid on supports. A target nucleic acid sequence (133; see Fig. 2) is hybridized to an oligonucleotide primer (125) immobilized on a solid support (see claim 1 and p. 21, l. 15-24; Fig. 2A-B). Primer elongation takes place which results in a product (145) complementary to the original target sequence (Fig. 2D). After dissociation of target sequence (133), the template (145) anneals via its 3'-end (corresponds to "Y" of the present invention) to a colony primer (127) (see Fig. 2E-2F; p. 22, l. 3-25). As can be concluded from Fig. 2 E and the amplification direction, the 5'-end of template (145), which corresponds to "Z" of the present invention, is attached to the solid support and the colony primer (127) (which corresponds to "X" of the present invention) is also attached to the solid support via its 5'-end. Fig. 2G-2L (see also p. 22, l. 26-p. 25, l. 8) shows the performance of several amplification cycles, corresponding to step (3) of present claim 1. It is stated on p. 16, l. 23-30 that a high number of colony primers (referred to as second and third nucleic acids) are present on the support.

The formation of the template (145) occurs on the solid support by primer extension and not before attachment to the solid support. This distinguishes D1 from present claim 1 (see step 1) where the templates clearly are formed before they are attached to the solid support. In the present claim 1, the nucleic acid templates and colony primers are mixed together and afterwards attached to the solid support; in the D1 method on the other hand, only the colony primers are attached initially to the solid support and thus there is no mixing step.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/03248

The subject-matter of claim 1 is thus novel (Art. 33(2) PCT). However, the mixing step, which constitutes the distinguishing feature does not appear to be a basis for an inventive step. According to the description, an advantage of the present invention is that the density of the nucleic acid colonies can be controlled by altering the concentration of colony primers and nucleic acid templates (see p. 21, l. 16-29). This kind of density control is also possible in the prior art method of D1 by controlling the time of primer extension for the formation of templates and it is independent from a mixing step, i.e. the problem of density control is not solved by the distinguishing feature. Hence, the subject-matter of claim 1 does not meet the requirements of Art. 33(3) PCT.

Claim 4 refers to similar method steps as claim 1 but includes degenerate colony primers. However, degenerate primers are also known from D1 (see p. 10, l. 3-7), and hence, claim 4 lacks an inventive step for analogous reasons as outlined above (Art. 33(3) PCT).

Independent claim 31 relates to the use of the obvious method of claim 1 for a known application, i.e. amplification of sequencing (known from D1, see p. 26, l. 14-22) and therefore, does not meet the requirements of Art. 33(3) PCT either.

Dependent claims 2-3, 5-18 and 32 do not appear to meet the requirements of Art. 33(3) PCT either since the additional features are all known from D1 (please see in D1 control reactions with degenerate primers (p. 10, l. 3-7), sequence determination by incorporation and detection of labelled nucleotides (see p. 26, l. 14-18), simultaneous sequence determination in more than one nucleic acid colonies (see Fig. 2L and p. 24, l. 1-9), visualization of the amplification products by use of labelled probes (p. 26, l. 14-22), covalent attachment of the primer via an amino group (p. 47, l. 8-11), use of glass supports (p. 14, l. 25-28)) or appear to be obvious and do not result in any unexpected effect.

With respect to D2, the identical objections apply to claims 1-18 and 31-32, since this

document discloses the same teaching as D1. The relevant passages are the following: p. 17, l. 22-p. 22, l. 30, p. 6, l. 18-20 in combination with Fig. 2 and the features "control reactions with degenerate primers" (see p. 9, l. 9-16), "sequence determination by incorporation and detection of labelled nucleotides" (see p. 22, l. 1-6), "simultaneous sequence determination in more than one nucleic acid colonies" (see Fig. 2L in combination with p. 21, l. 27-35) "visualization of the amplification products by use of labelled probes" (p. 22, l. 11-15), "covalent attachment of the primer via an amino group" (p. 7, l. 19-21), "use of glass supports" (p. 7, l. 1-7).

b) Independent claims 19, 25, 29 and 33

None of the prior art documents discloses a plurality of different nucleic acid templates which comprise at their 5' ends a known oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3'-end a known oligonucleotide Z and at the 5'-end a means for attachment. In D1/D2, a plurality of identical nucleic acid templates is extended.

Hence, the presence of different templates all having known standard oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z at their end renders the subject-matter of claim 19 novel (Art. 33(2) PCT). This arrangement has the advantage that by use of corresponding known universal primers a whole set of different nucleic acid templates may be amplified at the same time on one single solid support.

Since none of the prior art documents gives any indication as to these features, the subject-matter of claim 19 is considered to include an inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT).

Independent claims 25, 29 and 33 include the features of claim 19 and therefore, they also meet the requirements of Art. 33(2) and (3) PCT.

Claims 20-24, 26-28, 30 and 34 contain preferred embodiments of the novel and inventive idea embodied in claims 19, 25, 29 and 33 and would also appear to meet the requirements of Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT.

Part VI

WO 98/44151 was filed on 01/04/1998 (claiming priorities of 01/04/1997 and 23/06/1997) and published on 08.10.1998. This document discloses a method of colony amplification comprising the steps of

- providing a plurality of primers that are immobilised
- allowing a single stranded target nucleic acid molecule to anneal to one of said plurality of primers and extending that primer using the annealed single stranded nucleic acid molecule as a template, so as to provide an extended immobilised nucleic acid strand
- separating the target nucleic acid molecule from the extended immobilised nucleic acid strand
- allowing the extended immobilised nucleic acid strand to anneal to one of the above plurality of primers and then extending the primer using the extended immobilised nucleic acid strand as a template, so as to provide another extended immobilised nucleic acid strand
- repeating the amplification cycles (see claims 1 and 2 in WO 98/44151).

Furthermore, Fig. 1a-1l discloses the colony amplification technique of identical templates and primers as the present invention.

If it turns out that the priority of the present application is not validly claimed, WO 98/44151 will become relevant prior art.

WO 98/44152 has been cited as E-document in the International Search Report. However, it appears that this document is not relevant for the assessment of the present claims for the following reasons: WO 98/44152 provides a method of primer extension in which the primer and the template are attached to a solid support (see eg. claims 1 and 6). For the primer extension from 5' to 3' to take place only one attachment scheme is possible, namely attachment of the primer via its 5' end and attachment of the directly neighboured template via its 3'-end. This is in contrast to the present invention where the primer and the template are both attached via their 5'-end (which is made possible by bending the template in order to anneal via its 3'-end to the

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/03248

primer).

Part VIII

Claims 21 and 23 are rendered unclear by the wording "... nucleic acid templates when mixed..." (Art. 6 PCT). It is not allowed to define a product ("plurality of nucleic acid templates") by features which do not characterize the product itself but objects surrounding the product.

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method well known and documented in the art. A target nucleic acid fragment of interest can be amplified using two short oligonucleotide sequences (usually referred to as primers) which are specific to known sequences flanking the DNA sequence that is to be amplified. The primers hybridize to opposite strands of the double-stranded DNA fragment after it has been denatured, and are oriented so that DNA synthesis by the DNA polymerase proceeds through the region between the two primers, with the primer sequences being extended by the sequential incorporation of nucleotides by the polymerase. The extension reactions create two double-stranded target regions, each of which can again be denatured ready for a second cycle of hybridisation and extension. The third cycle produces two double-stranded molecules that comprise precisely the target region in double-stranded form. By repeated cycles of heat denaturation, primer hybridisation, and extension, there follows a rapid exponential accumulation of the specific target fragment of DNA. Traditionally, this method is performed in solution and the amplified target nucleic acid fragment purified from solution by methods well known in the art, for example by gel electrophoresis.

More recently, however, methods have been disclosed which use one primer grafted to a surface in conjunction with free primers in solution. These methods allow the simultaneous amplification and attachment of a PCR product onto the surface (Oroskar, A.A. et al., *Clinical Chemistry* 42:1547 (1996)).

WO96/04404 and WO98/36094 (Mosaic Technologies, Inc. et al) discloses a method of detection of a target nucleic acid in a sample which potentially contains the target nucleic acid. The method involves the induction of a PCR based amplification of the target nucleic acid only when the target nucleic acid is present in the sample being tested. For the amplification of the target sequence, both primers are attached to a solid support,

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Claims:

1. A method for amplification of at least one nucleic acid comprising the following steps:-
 - 5 (1) forming at least one nucleic acid template comprising the nucleic acid(s) to be amplified, wherein said nucleic acid(s) contains at the 5' end an oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3' end an oligonucleotide sequence Z and, in addition, the nucleic
10 acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support;
 - (2) mixing said nucleic acid template(s) with one or more colony primers X, which can hybridize to the oligonucleotide sequence Z and carries at the 5' end a
15 means for attaching the colony primers to a solid support, in the presence of a solid support so that the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template and the colony primers bind to the solid support;
 - (3) performing one or more nucleic acid
20 amplification reactions on the bound template(s), so that nucleic acid colonies are generated.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide sequence Z is complementary to
25 oligonucleotide sequence Y and colony primer X is of the same sequence as oligonucleotide sequence Y.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein two
30 different colony primers X are mixed with said template(s) in step (2), and wherein the sequences of colony primers X are such that the oligonucleotide sequence Z can hybridise to one of the colony primers X and the oligonucleotide sequence Y is the same as one of the colony primers X.
- 35 4. A method for amplification of at least one nucleic acid comprising the following steps:-

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- (1) forming at least one nucleic acid template comprising the nucleic acid(s) to be amplified, wherein said nucleic acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support;
- 5 (2) mixing said nucleic acid templates with one or more degenerate colony primers X, which can hybridize to an oligonucleotide sequence in said template(s) at a site flanking the nucleic acid sequence which is to be amplified and carries at the 5' end a means for
- 10 attaching the colony primers to a solid support, in the presence of a solid support so that the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template and the colony primers bind to the solid support;
- (3) performing one or more nucleic acid
- 15 amplification reactions on the bound template(s), so that nucleic acid colonies are generated.

5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 comprising the additional step of performing at least

20 one step of sequence determination of one or more of the nucleic acid colonies generated.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the sequence determination step(5) involves the incorporation and

25 detection of labelled oligonucleotides.

7. A method as claimed in claim 5 or 6 wherein the full or partial sequences of the amplified nucleic acid templates present in more than one nucleic acid colonies

30 are determined simultaneously.

8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 comprising the additional step of visualising the colonies generated.

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9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said visualisation step involves the use of a labelled or

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unlabelled nucleic acid probe.

10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9,
wherein the means for attaching the nucleic acid
5 template(s) and the colony primers to the solid support
comprises a means for attaching the nucleic acid
sequences covalently to the said support.
11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said means
10 for attaching the nucleic acid sequences covalently to
the solid support is a chemically modifiable functional
group.
12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said
15 chemically modifiable functional group is a phosphate
group, a carboxylic or aldehyde moiety, a thiol, a
hydroxyl, a dimethoxytrityl (DMT), or an amino group.
13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said
20 chemically modifiable functional group is an amino
group.
14. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13
wherein said solid support is selected from the group
25 comprising latex beads, dextran beads, polystyrene,
polypropylene surface, polyacrylamide gel, gold
surfaces, glass surfaces and silicon wafers.
15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said solid
30 support is glass.
16. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15
wherein the density of nucleic acid colonies generated
is 10,000/mm² to 100,000/mm².
- 35 17. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16
wherein the density of colony primers X attached to said

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solid support is at least 1 fmol/mm².

18. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17
5 wherein the density of nucleic acid templates is
10,000/mm² to 100,000/mm².

19. A plurality of different nucleic acid templates
comprising the nucleic acids to be amplified, wherein
each of said nucleic acids contain at their 5' ends a
10 known oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3' end a
known oligonucleotide sequence Z and, in addition, the
nucleic acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for
attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support.

20. The plurality of nucleic acid templates of claim 19
15 wherein oligonucleotide sequence Z is complementary to
oligonucleotide sequence Y.

21. The plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed
20 in claim 19 when mixed with a plurality of colony
primers X which can hybridise to the oligonucleotide
sequence Z and carry at their 5' ends a means for
attaching the colony primers to a solid support.

22. The plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed
25 in claim 21, wherein the oligonucleotide sequence Z is
complementary to oligonucleotide sequence Y and colony
primer X is of the same sequence as oligonucleotide
sequence Y.

23. A plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed in
claim 19 when mixed with two different colony primers X,
and wherein the sequences of colony primers X are such
that the oligonucleotide sequence Z can hybridise to one
35 of the colony primers X and the oligonucleotide sequence
Y is the same as one of the colony primers X.

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24. A plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed in claim 21 wherein the colony primers X comprise a degenerate primer sequence and the nucleic acid templates do not contain oligonucleotide sequences Y or Z.
25. A solid support, to which there is attached a plurality of colony primers X as defined in any one of the previous claims and a plurality of nucleic acid templates as defined in any one of claims 19 to 24.
26. A solid support as claimed in claim 25 wherein the solid support is as defined in claims 14 and 15.
27. A solid support as claimed in any one of claims 25 or 26 wherein the attachment of nucleic acid templates and colony primers to the solid support is covalent.
28. A solid support comprising one or more nucleic acid colonies generated by a method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 18.
29. Use of the solid support of any one of claims 25 to 28 in methods of nucleic acid amplification or sequencing.
30. Use as claimed in claim 29 wherein said method is a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18.
31. Use of a method of any one of claims 1 to 18, for nucleic acid amplification or sequencing.
32. Use of a method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 18 or the nucleic acid colonies generated by said methods, or the plurality of nucleic acid templates of claims 19 to 24, or the solid supports of claims 25 to 28, for providing nucleic acid molecules for sequencing

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and re-sequencing, gene expression monitoring, genetic diversity profiling, diagnosis, screening, whole genome sequencing, whole genome polymorphism discovery and scoring and the preparation of whole genome slides, or
5 any other applications involving the amplification of nucleic acids or the sequencing thereof.

33. A kit for use in nucleic acid amplification or sequencing comprising a plurality of nucleic acid
10 templates as defined in any one of claims 19 to 24 and colony primers as defined in any of the preceding claims bound to a solid support.

34. A kit as claimed in claim 33 for use in sequencing,
15 re-sequencing, gene expression monitoring, genetic diversity profiling, diagnosis, screening, whole genome sequencing, whole genome polymorphism discovery and scoring, or any other applications involving the
20 amplification of nucleic acids or the sequencing thereof.

method well known and documented in the art. A target nucleic acid fragment of interest can be amplified using two short oligonucleotide sequences (usually referred to as primers) which are specific to known sequences flanking the DNA sequence that is to be amplified. The primers hybridize to opposite strands of the double-stranded DNA fragment after it has been denatured, and are oriented so that DNA synthesis by the DNA polymerase proceeds through the region between the two primers, with the primer sequences being extended by the sequential incorporation of nucleotides by the polymerase. The extension reactions create two double-stranded target regions, each of which can again be denatured ready for a second cycle of hybridisation and extension. The third cycle produces two double-stranded molecules that comprise precisely the target region in double-stranded form. By repeated cycles of heat denaturation, primer hybridisation, and extension, there follows a rapid exponential accumulation of the specific target fragment of DNA. Traditionally, this method is performed in solution and the amplified target nucleic acid fragment purified from solution by methods well known in the art, for example by gel electrophoresis.

More recently, however, methods have been disclosed which use one primer grafted to a surface in conjunction with free primers in solution. These methods allow the simultaneous amplification and attachment of a PCR product onto the surface (Oroskar, A.A. et al., *Clinical Chemistry* 42:1547 (1996)).

WO96/04404 (Mosaic Technologies, Inc. et al) discloses a method of detection of a target nucleic acid in a sample which potentially contains the target nucleic acid. The method involves the induction of a PCR based amplification of the target nucleic acid only when the target nucleic acid is present in the sample being tested. For the amplification of the target sequence, both primers are attached to a solid support,

Claims:

1. A method for amplification of at least one nucleic acid comprising the following steps:-

5 (1) forming at least one nucleic acid template comprising the nucleic acid(s) to be amplified, wherein said nucleic acid(s) contains at the 5' end an oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3' end an oligonucleotide sequence Z and, in addition, the nucleic
10 acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support;

(2) mixing said nucleic acid template(s) with one or more colony primers X, which can hybridize to the oligonucleotide sequence Z and carries at the 5' end a
15 means for attaching the colony primers to a solid support, in the presence of a solid support so that the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template and the colony primers bind to the solid support;

(3) performing one or more nucleic acid
20 amplification reactions on the bound template(s), so that nucleic acid colonies are generated.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide sequence Z is complementary to
25 oligonucleotide sequence Y and colony primer X is of the same sequence as oligonucleotide sequence Y.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein two different colony primers X are mixed with said
30 template(s) in step (2), and wherein the sequences of colony primers X are such that the oligonucleotide sequence Z can hybridise to one of the colony primers X and the oligonucleotide sequence Y is the same as one of the colony primers X.

35 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the colony primers X comprise a degenerate primer sequence and the

nucleic acid template(s) do not contain oligonucleotide sequences Y or Z.

5 5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 comprising the additional step of performing at least one step of sequence determination of one or more of the nucleic acid colonies generated.

10 6. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the sequence determination step(5) involves the incorporation and detection of labelled oligonucleotides.

15 7. A method as claimed in claim 5 or 6 wherein the full or partial sequences of the amplified nucleic acid templates present in more than one nucleic acid colonies are determined simultaneously.

20 8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 comprising the additional step of visualising the colonies generated.

25 9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said visualisation step involves the use of a labelled or unlabelled nucleic acid probe.

30 10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the means for attaching the nucleic acid template(s) and the colony primers to the solid support comprises a means for attaching the nucleic acid sequences covalently to the said support.

35 11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said means for attaching the nucleic acid sequences covalently to the solid support is a chemically modifiable functional group.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said chemically modifiable functional group is a phosphate group, a carboxylic or aldehyde moiety, a thiol, a hydroxyl, a dimethoxytrityl (DMT), or an amino group.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said chemically modifiable functional group is an amino group.

14. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein said solid support is selected from the group comprising latex beads, dextran beads, polystyrene, polypropylene surface, polyacrylamide gel, gold surfaces, glass surfaces and silicon wafers.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said solid support is glass.

16. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 wherein the density of nucleic acid colonies generated is 10,000/mm² to 100,000/mm².

17. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16 wherein the density of colony primers X attached to said solid support is at least 1 fmol/mm².

18. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein the density of nucleic acid templates is 10,000/mm² to 100,000/mm².

19. A plurality of nucleic acid templates comprising the nucleic acids to be amplified, wherein said nucleic acids contain at their 5' ends an oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3' end an oligonucleotide sequence Z and, in addition, the nucleic acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support.

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20. A plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed in claim 19, wherein said templates are mixed with a plurality of colony primers X.

5 21. A plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20, wherein the oligonucleotide sequence Z is complementary to oligonucleotide sequence Y and colony primer X is of the same sequence as oligonucleotide sequence Y.

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22. A plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20 wherein two different colony primers X are mixed with said templates, and wherein the sequences of colony primers X are such that the oligonucleotide sequence Z can hybridise to one of the colony primers X and the oligonucleotide sequence Y is the same as one of the colony primers X.

15

23. A plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20 wherein the colony primers X comprise a degenerate primer sequence and the nucleic acid templates do not contain oligonucleotide sequences Y or Z.

20

24. A solid support, to which there is attached a plurality of colony primers X and at least one nucleic acid template, wherein said nucleic acid templates and colony primers are as defined in any one of the previous claims.

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25. A solid support as claimed in claim 24 wherein a plurality of nucleic acid templates are attached to said solid support.

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26. A solid support as claimed in claim 24 or 25 wherein the solid support is as defined in claims 14 and 15.

27. A solid support as claimed in any one of claims 24 to 26 wherein the attachment of nucleic acid templates and colony primers to the solid support is covalent.

5 28. A solid support comprising one or more nucleic acid colonies generated by a method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 18.

10 29. Use of the solid support of any one of claims 24 to 28 in methods of nucleic acid amplification or sequencing.

15 30. Use as claimed in claim 29 wherein said method is a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18.

31. Use of a method of any one of claims 1 to 18, for nucleic acid amplification or sequencing.

20 32. Use of a method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 18 or the nucleic acid colonies generated by said methods, or the plurality of nucleic acid templates of claims 19 to 23, or the solid supports of claims 24 to 28, for providing nucleic acid molecules for sequencing and re-sequencing, gene expression monitoring, genetic
25 diversity profiling, diagnosis, screening, whole genome sequencing, whole genome polymorphism discovery and scoring and the preparation of whole genome slides, or any other applications involving the amplification of nucleic acids or the sequencing thereof.

30 33. A kit for use in nucleic acid amplification or sequencing comprising a plurality of nucleic acid templates and colony primers as defined in any of the preceding claims bound to a solid support.

35 34. A kit as claimed in claim 33 for use in sequencing, re-sequencing, gene expression monitoring, genetic

diversity profiling, diagnosis, screening, whole genome sequencing, whole genome polymorphism discovery and scoring, or any other applications involving the amplification of nucleic acids or the sequencing thereof.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

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in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 12 May 2000 (12.05.00)	
International application No. PCT/GB99/03248	Applicant's or agent's file reference 40.17.68184/001
International filing date (day/month/year) 30 September 1999 (30.09.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 September 1998 (30.09.98)
Applicant ADESSI, Céline et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

18 April 2000 (18.04.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:2. The election ☒ was☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : C12Q 1/68	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/18957 (43) International Publication Date: 6 April 2000 (06.04.00)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/03248</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 30 September 1999 (30.09.99)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 98307985.6 30 September 1998 (30.09.98) EP</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): APPLIED RESEARCH SYSTEMS ARS HOLDING N.V. [NL/NL]; 14 John B. Gorsiraweg, Curacao (AN).</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for GB only): DZIEGLEWSKA, Hanna [GB/GB]; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and</p> <p>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ADESSI, Céline [FR/FR]; 8, rue du Jura, F-74100 Ambilly (FR). KAWASHIMA, Eric [US/CH]; 7, route de Lausanne, CH-1260 Nyon (CH). MAYER, Pascal [FR/FR]; Chemin du Ney, F-01200 Eloise (FR). MERMOD, Jean-Jacques [CH/CH]; 2, rue Maurice Barraud, CH-1206 Geneva (CH). TURCATTI, Gerardo [IT/CH]; 17, rue Dr. Alfred Vincent, CH-1201 Geneva (CH).</p>	<p>(74) Agents: DZIEGLEWSKA, Hanna et al.; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).</p> <p>(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), DM, EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</p>	
(54) Title: METHODS OF NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION AND SEQUENCING		
<p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>Methods for amplification and sequencing of at least one nucleic acid comprising the following steps: (1) forming at least one nucleic acid template comprising the nucleic acid(s) to be amplified or sequenced, wherein said nucleic acid(s) contains at the 5' end an oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3' end an oligonucleotide sequence Z and, in addition, the nucleic acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support; (2) mixing said nucleic acid template(s) with one or more colony primers X, which can hybridize to the oligonucleotide sequence Z and carries at the 5' end a means for attaching the colony primers to a solid support, in the presence of a solid support so that the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template and the colony primers bind to the solid support; (3) performing one or more nucleic acid amplification reactions on the bound template(s), so that nucleic acid colonies are generated and optionally, performing at least one step of sequence determination of one or more of the nucleic acid colonies generated. Solid supports, kits and apparatus for use in these methods.</p>		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/03248

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C12Q1/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C12Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 98 44151 A (FARINELLI LAURENT ;KAWASHIMA ERIC (CH); MAYER PASCAL (CH); GLAXO G) 8 October 1998 (1998-10-08) the whole document ---	1,5,19, 24-31
E	WO 98 44152 A (FARINELLI LAURENT ;MAYER PASCAL (CH); KAWASHIMA ERIC H (CH); GLAXO) 8 October 1998 (1998-10-08) the whole document ---	1,5,19, 24-31
X	WO 98 36094 A (MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES) 20 August 1998 (1998-08-20) cited in the application page 11, line 27 - line 30; figure 2 --- -/--	1,5,19, 24-31

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

* & document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 February 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/02/2000

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/03248

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 96 04404 A (MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES INC ;WHITEHEAD FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEA (US); ADAM) 15 February 1996 (1996-02-15) the whole document ---	1,5,19, 24-31
A	WO 95 33073 A (TEPNEL MEDICAL LTD ;MINTER STEPHEN JOHN (GB)) 7 December 1995 (1995-12-07) the whole document ---	1,5, 24-31
A	WO 94 02634 A (UNIV SOUTH AUSTRALIA ;ADELAIDE CHILDREN S HOSPITAL (AU); HARRIS RA) 3 February 1994 (1994-02-03) claim 1 ---	1
X	EP 0 665 293 A (HAMAMATSU PHOTONICS KK) 2 August 1995 (1995-08-02) cited in the application the whole document ---	19
A	the whole document ---	1
A	STERKY F ET AL: "Direct sequencing of bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs) and prokaryotic genomes by biotin-capture PCR" JOURNAL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY,NL,ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS, AMSTERDAM, vol. 60, no. 1-2, 5 February 1998 (1998-02-05), pages 119-129, XP004115549 ISSN: 0168-1656 the whole document ---	1,4-7
A	EP 0 543 484 A (JAPAN RES DEV CORP ;YOKOI HARUHIKO (JP)) 26 May 1993 (1993-05-26) see abstract -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/03248

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9844151 A	08-10-1998	AU 6846698 A EP 0972081 A AU 6846798 A EP 0975802 A WO 9844152 A	22-10-1998 19-01-2000 22-10-1998 02-02-2000 08-10-1998
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WO 9836094 A	20-08-1998	AU 6146098 A	08-09-1998
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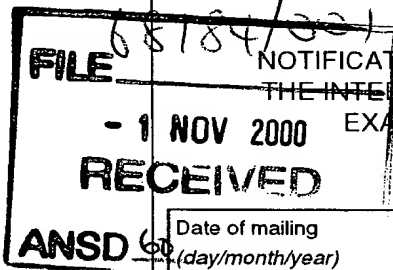
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

WOODMAN Derek
Frank B. Dehn & CO.
179 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4EL
GRANDE BRETAGNE

PCT



NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 30.10.2000

Applicant's or agent's file reference
40.17.68184/001

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/GB99/03248

International filing date (day/month/year)
30/09/1999

Priority date (day/month/year)
30/09/1998

Applicant
APPLIED RESEARCH SYSTEMS ARS HOLDING N.V. et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/



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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 40.17.68184/001		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB99/03248	International filing date (day/month/year) 30/09/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 30/09/1998	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C12Q1/68			
Applicant APPLIED RESEARCH SYSTEMS ARS HOLDING N.V. et al.			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 7 sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 			
Date of submission of the demand 18/04/2000		Date of completion of this report 30.10.2000	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized officer von Ballmoos, P Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8174 	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB99/03248

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-3,5-76	as originally filed	
4	with telefax of	05/10/2000

Claims, No.:

1-34	with telefax of	05/10/2000
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Drawings, sheets:

1/10-10/10	as originally filed
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2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB99/03248

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims 1-34
	No: Claims ---
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims 19-30, 33-34
	No: Claims 1-18, 31-32
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-34
	No: Claims ---

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VI. Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Part V

Reference is made to the following documents.

D1 WO 98/36094

D2 WO 96/04404

a) Independent claims 1, 4 and 31

The closest prior art for the assessment of these claims is represented by D1 or D2.

D1 discloses a method for performing amplification of nucleic acid on supports. A target nucleic acid sequence (133; see Fig. 2) is hybridized to an oligonucleotide primer (125) immobilized on a solid support (see claim 1 and p. 21, l. 15-24; Fig. 2A-B). Primer elongation takes place which results in a product (145) complementary to the original target sequence (Fig. 2D). After dissociation of target sequence (133), the template (145) anneals via its 3'-end (corresponds to "Y" of the present invention) to a colony primer (127) (see Fig. 2E-2F; p. 22, l. 3-25). As can be concluded from Fig. 2 E and the amplification direction, the 5'-end of template (145), which corresponds to "Z" of the present invention, is attached to the solid support and the colony primer (127) (which corresponds to "X" of the present invention) is also attached to the solid support via its 5'-end. Fig. 2G-2L (see also p. 22, l. 26-p. 25, l. 8) shows the performance of several amplification cycles, corresponding to step (3) of present claim 1. It is stated on p. 16, l. 23-30 that a high number of colony primers (referred to as second and third nucleic acids) are present on the support.

The formation of the template (145) occurs on the solid support by primer extension and not before attachment to the solid support. This distinguishes D1 from present claim 1 (see step 1) where the templates clearly are formed before they are attached to the solid support. In the present claim 1, the nucleic acid templates and colony primers are mixed together and afterwards attached to the solid support; in the D1 method on the other hand, only the colony primers are attached initially to the solid support and thus there is no mixing step.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is thus novel (Art. 33(2) PCT). However, the mixing step, which constitutes the distinguishing feature does not appear to be a basis for an inventive step. According to the description, an advantage of the present invention is that the density of the nucleic acid colonies can be controlled by altering the concentration of colony primers and nucleic acid templates (see p. 21, l. 16-29). This kind of density control is also possible in the prior art method of D1 by controlling the time of primer extension for the formation of templates and it is independent from a mixing step, i.e. the problem of density control is not solved by the distinguishing feature. Hence, the subject-matter of claim 1 does not meet the requirements of Art. 33(3) PCT.

Claim 4 refers to similar method steps as claim 1 but includes degenerate colony primers. However, degenerate primers are also known from D1 (see p. 10, l. 3-7), and hence, claim 4 lacks an inventive step for analogous reasons as outlined above (Art. 33(3) PCT).

Independent claim 31 relates to the use of the obvious method of claim 1 for a known application, i.e. amplification of sequencing (known from D1, see p. 26, l. 14-22) and therefore, does not meet the requirements of Art. 33(3) PCT either.

Dependent claims 2-3, 5-18 and 32 do not appear to meet the requirements of Art. 33(3) PCT either since the additional features are all known from D1 (please see in D1 control reactions with degenerate primers (p. 10, l. 3-7), sequence determination by incorporation and detection of labelled nucleotides (see p. 26, l. 14-18), simultaneous sequence determination in more than one nucleic acid colonies (see Fig. 2L and p. 24, l. 1-9), visualization of the amplification products by use of labelled probes (p. 26, l. 14-22), covalent attachment of the primer via an amino group (p. 47, l. 8-11), use of glass supports (p. 14, l. 25-28)) or appear to be obvious and do not result in any unexpected effect.

With respect to D2, the identical objections apply to claims 1-18 and 31-32, since this

document discloses the same teaching as D1. The relevant passages are the following: p. 17, l. 22-p. 22, l. 30, p. 6, l. 18-20 in combination with Fig. 2 and the features "control reactions with degenerate primers" (see p. 9, l. 9-16), "sequence determination by incorporation and detection of labelled nucleotides" (see p. 22, l. 1-6), "simultaneous sequence determination in more than one nucleic acid colonies" (see Fig. 2L in combination with p. 21, l. 27-35) "visualization of the amplification products by use of labelled probes" (p. 22, l. 11-15), "covalent attachment of the primer via an amino group" (p. 7, l. 19-21), "use of glass supports" (p. 7, l. 1-7).

b) Independent claims 19, 25, 29 and 33

None of the prior art documents discloses a plurality of different nucleic acid templates which comprise at their 5' ends a known oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3'-end a known oligonucleotide Z and at the 5'-end a means for attachment. In D1/D2, a plurality of identical nucleic acid templates is extended.

Hence, the presence of different templates all having known standard oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z at their end renders the subject-matter of claim 19 novel (Art. 33(2) PCT). This arrangement has the advantage that by use of corresponding known universal primers a whole set of different nucleic acid templates may be amplified at the same time on one single solid support.

Since none of the prior art documents gives any indication as to these features, the subject-matter of claim 19 is considered to include an inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT).

Independent claims 25, 29 and 33 include the features of claim 19 and therefore, they also meet the requirements of Art. 33(2) and (3) PCT.

Claims 20-24, 26-28, 30 and 34 contain preferred embodiments of the novel and inventive idea embodied in claims 19, 25, 29 and 33 and would also appear to meet the requirements of Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT.

Part VI

WO 98/44151 was filed on 01/04/1998 (claiming priorities of 01/04/1997 and 23/06/1997) and published on 08.10.1998. This document discloses a method of colony amplification comprising the steps of

- providing a plurality of primers that are immobilised
- allowing a single stranded target nucleic acid molecule to anneal to one of said plurality of primers and extending that primer using the annealed single stranded nucleic acid molecule as a template, so as to provide an extended immobilised nucleic acid strand
- separating the target nucleic acid molecule from the extended immobilised nucleic acid strand
- allowing the extended-immobilised nucleic acid strand to anneal to one of the above plurality of primers and then extending the primer using the extended immobilised nucleic acid strand as a template, so as to provide another extended immobilised nucleic acid strand
- repeating the amplification cycles (see claims 1 and 2 in WO 98/44151).

Furthermore, Fig. 1a-1l discloses the colony amplification technique of identical templates and primers as the present invention.

If it turns out that the priority of the present application is not validly claimed, WO 98/44151 will become relevant prior art.

WO 98/44152 has been cited as E-document in the International Search Report. However, it appears that this document is not relevant for the assessment of the present claims for the following reasons: WO 98/44152 provides a method of primer extension in which the primer and the template are attached to a solid support (see eg. claims 1 and 6). For the primer extension from 5' to 3' to take place only one attachment scheme is possible, namely attachment of the primer via its 5' end and attachment of the directly neighboured template via its 3'-end. This is in contrast to the present invention where the primer and the template are both attached via their 5'-end (which is made possible by bending the template in order to anneal via its 3'-end to the

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/03248

primer).

Part VIII

Claims 21 and 23 are rendered unclear by the wording "... nucleic acid templates when mixed..." (Art. 6 PCT). It is not allowed to define a product ("plurality of nucleic acid templates") by features which do not characterize the product itself but objects surrounding the product.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING
OF A CHANGE(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

To:

DZIEGLEWSKA, Hanna
Frank B. Dehn & Co.
179 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4EL
ROYAUME-UNI

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

30 January 2001 (30.01.01)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

40.17.68184/001

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/GB99/03248

International filing date (day/month/year)

30 September 1999 (30.09.99)

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning:

☒

the applicant

☐

the inventor

☐

the agent

☐

the common representative

Name and Address

DZIEGLEWSKA, Hanna
Frank B. Dehn & Co.
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State of Nationality

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State of Residence

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Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:

☐

the person

☐

the name

☐

the address

☐

the nationality

☐

the residence

Name and Address

APPLIED RESEARCH SYSTEMS ARS
HOLDING N.V.
Pietermaai 15
Curacao
Netherlands Antilles

State of Nationality

NL

State of Residence

NL

Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

3. Further observations, if necessary:

The applicant indicated in Box 1 assigned her rights to the applicant indicated in Box 2.

4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:

☒

the receiving Office

☐

the International Searching Authority

☐

the International Preliminary Examining Authority

☐

the designated Offices concerned

☒

the elected Offices concerned

☐

other:

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

Mougamadou ABIDINE

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/GB 98/00961

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 C1201/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 C120

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 96 04404 A (MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES INC ;WHITEHEAD FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEA (US); ADAM) 15 February 1996	1-29, 48-56, 63, 64
Y	see the whole document	30-47, 57-62
Y	WO 96 32504 A (UNIV BOSTON) 17 October 1996 see the whole document	30-47
Y	OROSKAR ET AL.: "DETECTION OF IMMOBILIZED AMPLICONS BY ELISA-LIKE TECHNIQUES" CLIN.CHEM., vol. 42, no. 9, 1996, pages 1547-1555, XP002074418 cited in the application see the whole document	57-59

-/--

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "Z" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 August 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

01/09/1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Hagenmaier, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/GB 98/00961

C (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	YERSHOV ET AL.: "DNA ANALYSIS AND DIAGNOSTIC ON OLIGONUCLEOTIDE MICROCHIPS" PNAS, vol. 93, May 1996, pages 4913-4918, XP002074419 cited in the application see the whole document	60-62
A	LOCKHART ET AL.: "EXPRESSION MONITORING BY HYBRIDIZATION TO HIGH-DENSITY OLIGONUCLEOTIDE ARRAYS" NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY, vol. 14, 14 December 1996, pages 1675-1680, XP002074420 cited in the application see the whole document	1-64
A	EP 0 665 293 A (HAMAMATSU PHOTONICS KK) 2 August 1995 see abstract	1-64
A	FU D -J ET AL: "SEQUENCING DOUBLE-STRANDED DNA BY STRAND DISPLACEMENT" NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEARCH, vol. 25, no. 3, 1997, pages 677-679, XP000196977 see the whole document	1-64
A	WO 93 04199 A (SCIENT GENERICS LTD) 4 March 1993 see the whole document	1-64
A	WO 91 06678 A (STANFORD RES INST INT ;TSIEN ROGER Y (US)) 16 May 1991 see the whole document	1-64
A	US 5 589 332 A (SHIH ANDY ET AL) 31 December 1996 see the whole document	19,20

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 98/00961

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9604404	A	15-02-1996	US 5641658 A CA 2196604 A EP 0784701 A JP 10505492 T	24-06-1997 15-02-1996 23-07-1997 02-06-1998
WO 9632504	A	17-10-1996	AU 5544696 A CA 2218188 A EP 0830460 A	30-10-1996 17-10-1996 25-03-1998
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WO 9304199	A	04-03-1993	NONE	
WO 9106678	A	16-05-1991	CA 2044616 A EP 0450060 A	27-04-1991 09-10-1991
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PCT

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104

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : C12Q 1/68		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/18957
			(43) International Publication Date: 6 April 2000 (06.04.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/03248 (22) International Filing Date: 30 September 1999 (30.09.99) (30) Priority Data: 98307985.6 30 September 1998 (30.09.98) EP (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): APPLIED RESEARCH SYSTEMS ARS HOLDING N.V. [NL/NL]; 14 John B. Gorsiraweg, Curacao (AN). (71) Applicant (for GB only): DZIEGLEWSKA, Hanna [GB/GB]; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ADESSI, Céline [FR/FR]; 8, rue du Jura, F-74100 Ambilly (FR). KAWASHIMA, Eric [US/CH]; 7, route de Lausanne, CH-1260 Nyon (CH). MAYER, Pascal [FR/FR]; Chemin du Ney, F-01200 Eloise (FR). MERMOD, Jean-Jacques [CH/CH]; 2, rue Maurice Barraud, CH-1206 Geneva (CH). TURCATI, Gerardo [IT/CH]; 17, rue Dr. Alfred Vincent, CH-1201 Geneva (CH).			(74) Agents: DZIEGLEWSKA, Hanna et al.; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB). (81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), DM, EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: METHODS OF NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION AND SEQUENCING			
(57) Abstract <p>Methods for amplification and sequencing of at least one nucleic acid comprising the following steps: (1) forming at least one nucleic acid template comprising the nucleic acid(s) to be amplified or sequenced, wherein said nucleic acid(s) contains at the 5' end an oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3' end an oligonucleotide sequence Z and, in addition, the nucleic acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support; (2) mixing said nucleic acid template(s) with one or more colony primers X, which can hybridize to the oligonucleotide sequence Z and carries at the 5' end a means for attaching the colony primers to a solid support, in the presence of a solid support so that the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template and the colony primers bind to the solid support; (3) performing one or more nucleic acid amplification reactions on the bound template(s), so that nucleic acid colonies are generated and optionally, performing at least one step of sequence determination of one or more of the nucleic acid colonies generated. Solid supports, kits and apparatus for use in these methods.</p>			

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Methods of nucleic acid amplification and sequencing

5 This invention relates to the field of nucleic acid
amplification and sequencing. More specifically, this
invention relates to nucleic acid amplification and
sequencing methods, and apparatus and kits useful for
large scale high throughput amplification and sequencing
10 of nucleic acids.

Nucleic acid sequence analysis has become a corner-
stone in many activities in biology, biotechnology and
medicine. The ability to determine nucleic acid
sequences has become increasingly important as efforts
15 have commenced to determine the sequences of the large
genomes of humans and other higher organisms and also,
for example, in single nucleotide polymorphism detection
and screening and gene expression monitoring. The
genetic information provided by nucleic acid sequencing
20 has many applications in areas such as for example drug
target discovery and validation, disease diagnosis and
risk scoring and organism identification and
characterization.

The first step in such applications is the
25 determination of the actual chemical composition of the
nucleic acids of interest, more precisely the
determination of the sequence of occurrence of the four
bases adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G) and thymine
(T) or uracil (U) which comprise nucleic acids.
30 However, such applications require the sequencing of
nucleic acids on a large scale, making high throughput
methods of nucleic acid sequencing extremely desirable.

Methods of nucleic acid sequencing are documented
in the art. The two most commonly used are the chemical
35 cleavage technique by Maxam and Gilbert which relies on
base-specific chemistry and the now more popular Sanger
sequencing technique which relies on an enzymatic chain

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terminating principle and is now used on a routine basis for nucleic acid sequencing.

5 In Sanger sequencing, each nucleic acid to be sequenced is replicated in a reaction involving DNA polymerase, deoxynucleotide triphosphates (dNTPs) and dideoxynucleotide triphosphates (ddNTPs). The DNA polymerase can incorporate both dNTPs and ddNTPs into the growing DNA strand. However, once a ddNTP is incorporated, the 3' end of the growing DNA strand lacks a hydroxyl group and is no longer a substrate for chain elongation, thus terminating the nucleic acid chain. Hence, in a particular reaction including one type of ddNTP a mixture of nucleic acids of different lengths is produced, all terminating with the same ddNTP. Usually separate reactions are set up for each of the four types of ddNTP and the distribution of lengths of the nucleic acid fragments produced is analysed by denaturing gel electrophoresis (which resolves nucleic acid fragments according to their size), or more recently, by mass-spectroscopy. Usually, one or more of the deoxynucleotide triphosphates in the reaction mixture is labelled to enable detection of the fragments of different lengths.

25 The above described methods are disadvantageous because each nucleic acid to be sequenced has to be processed individually during the biochemical reaction. Gel electrophoresis is cumbersome, labour intensive and intrinsically slow even when capillary electrophoresis is used and is not well suited for large scale high throughput sequencing. In addition, the subsequent determination of the sequence is cumbersome. Mass-spectroscopy is still at the prototype level, requires very expensive apparatus and each sample has to be analysed individually.

35 One way to increase throughput is to process many samples in parallel. Methods using DNA hybridization of nucleic acid probes are in use and allow for some

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multiplexing of the process during the biochemical and the electrophoretic processes, but at the cost of lengthy additional manipulations.

5 More recently methods based on DNA chips and DNA hybridization are becoming available (Thomas and Burke Exp. Opin. Ther. Patents 8: 503-508 (1998)). These methods are disadvantageous because for each application, a DNA chip has to be designed and manufactured first: this is a lengthy operation and the
10 price of an individual chip drops only when very large numbers of the chip are required. Also, the chips are not reusable and for each chip only one sample of nucleic acids, e.g. one patient to be diagnosed, can be processed at each time. Finally, the extent of sequence
15 which can be analysed by such a chip is limited to less than 100,000 bases, and is limited to some applications such as DNA genotyping and gene expression profiling.

In most known techniques for nucleic acid sequence analysis, amplification of the nucleic acids of interest
20 is a prerequisite step in order to obtain the nucleic acid in a quantity sufficient for analysis.

Several methods of nucleic acid amplification are well known and documented in the art. For example, nucleic acids can be amplified by inserting the nucleic
25 acid of interest into an expression vector construct. Such vectors can then be introduced into suitable biological host cells and the vector DNA, including the nucleic acid of interest, amplified by culturing the biological host using well established protocols.

30 Nucleic acids amplified by such methods can be isolated from the host cells by methods well known and documented in the art. However, such methods have the disadvantage of being generally time consuming, labour intensive and difficult to automate.

35 The technique of DNA amplification by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was disclosed in 1985 (Saiki et al. Science 230, 1350-1354) and is now a

method well known and documented in the art. A target nucleic acid fragment of interest can be amplified using two short oligonucleotide sequences (usually referred to as primers) which are specific to known sequences flanking the DNA sequence that is to be amplified. The primers hybridize to opposite strands of the double-stranded DNA fragment after it has been denatured, and are oriented so that DNA synthesis by the DNA polymerase proceeds through the region between the two primers, with the primer sequences being extended by the sequential incorporation of nucleotides by the polymerase. The extension reactions create two double-stranded target regions, each of which can again be denatured ready for a second cycle of hybridisation and extension. The third cycle produces two double-stranded molecules that comprise precisely the target region in double-stranded form. By repeated cycles of heat denaturation, primer hybridisation, and extension, there follows a rapid exponential accumulation of the specific target fragment of DNA. Traditionally, this method is performed in solution and the amplified target nucleic acid fragment purified from solution by methods well known in the art, for example by gel electrophoresis.

More recently, however, methods have been disclosed which use one primer grafted to a surface in conjunction with free primers in solution. These methods allow the simultaneous amplification and attachment of a PCR product onto the surface (Oroskar, A.A. et al., *Clinical Chemistry* 42:1547 (1996)).

WO96/04404 (Mosaic Technologies, Inc. et al) discloses a method of detection of a target nucleic acid in a sample which potentially contains the target nucleic acid. The method involves the induction of a PCR based amplification of the target nucleic acid only when the target nucleic acid is present in the sample being tested. For the amplification of the target sequence, both primers are attached to a solid support,

which results in the amplified target nucleic acid sequences also being attached to the solid support. The amplification technique disclosed in this document is sometimes referred to as the "bridge amplification" technique. In this technique the two primers are, as for conventional PCR, specifically designed so that they flank the particular target DNA sequence to be amplified. Thus, if the particular target nucleic acid is present in the sample, the target nucleic acid can hybridise to the primers and be amplified by PCR. The first step in this PCR amplification process is the hybridisation of the target nucleic acid to the first specific primer attached to the support ("primer 1"). A first amplification product, which is complementary to the target nucleic acid, is then formed by extension of the primer 1 sequence. On subjecting the support to denaturation conditions the target nucleic acid is released and can then participate in further hybridisation reactions with other primer 1 sequences which may be attached to the support. The first amplification product which is attached to the support, may then hybridise with the second specific primer ("primer 2") attached to the support and a second amplification product comprising a nucleic acid sequence complementary to the first amplification product can be formed by extension of the primer 2 sequence and is also attached to the support. Thus, the target nucleic acid and the first and second amplification products are capable of participating in a plurality of hybridisation and extension processes, limited only by the initial presence of the target nucleic acid and the number of primer 1 and primer 2 sequences initially present and the result is a number of copies of the target sequence attached to the surface.

Since, on carrying out this process, amplification products are only formed if the target nucleic acid is present, monitoring the support for the presence or

absence of one or more amplification products is indicative of the presence or absence of a specific target sequence.

5 The Mosaic technique can be used to achieve an amount of multiplexing in that several different target nucleic acid sequences can be amplified simultaneously by arraying different sets of first and second primers, specific for each different target nucleic acid sequence, on different regions of the solid support.

10 The disadvantage of the Mosaic process is that, as the first and second primer sequences have to be specific for each target nucleic acid to be amplified, it can only be used to amplify known sequences. In addition, the throughput is limited by the number of
15 different sets of specific primers and subsequently amplified target nucleic acid molecules which can be arrayed in distinct regions of a given solid support and the time taken to array the nucleic acids in distinct regions. Also, the Mosaic process requires that 2
20 different primers are homogeneously attached by the 5' end to the support within the distinct region where the amplification product is formed. This cannot be achieved with presently available DNA chip manufacturing technology and has to be achieved by some means of
25 sample dispensing. Thus, the density that can be achieved by this approach has the same limitation as other classical arraying technologies. A further limitation is the speed of monitoring the individual distinct regions of the support for the presence or
30 absence of the amplified target nucleic acids.

 Arraying of DNA samples is classically performed on membranes (e.g., nylon or nitro-cellulose membranes). The use of suitable robotics (e.g., Q-botTM, Genetix Ltd, Dorset BH23 3TG UK) means that it is possible to obtain
35 a density of up to 10 samples/mm². In such methods, the DNA is covalently linked to a membrane by physicochemical means (e.g., UV irradiation) and the

arraying of large DNA molecules (e.g. molecules over 100 nucleotides long) as well as smaller DNA molecules such as oligonucleotide primers is possible.

Other techniques are known whereby higher density arrays of oligonucleotides can be obtained. For example, approaches based on pre-arrayed glass slides wherein arrays of reactive areas are obtained by ink-jet technology (Blanchard, A.P. and L. Hood, *Microbial and Comparative Genomics*, 1:225 (1996)) or arrays of reactive polyacrylamide gels (Yershov, G. et al., *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, USA*, 93:4913-4918 (1996)) allow in theory the arraying of up to 100 samples/mm².

Higher sample densities still are achievable by the use of DNA chips (Fodor, S.P.A. et al., *Science* 251:767(1991)). Currently, chips with 625 oligonucleotide probes/mm² are used in molecular biology techniques (Lockhart, D.J. et al., *Nature Biotechnology* 14:1675 (1996)). Probe densities of up to 250 000 samples/cm² (2500/mm²) are claimed to be achievable (Chee, M. et al., *Science* 274:610 (1996)). However, at present up to 132000 different oligonucleotides can be arrayed on a single chips of approximately 2.5 cm². Importantly, these chips are manufactured in such a way so that the 3'OH end of the oligonucleotide is attached to the solid surface. This means that oligonucleotides attached to chips in such a way cannot be used as primers in a PCR amplification reaction.

Importantly, when PCR products are linked to the vessel in which PCR amplification takes place, the density of the resultant array of PCR products is limited by the available vessel. Currently available vessels are only in 96 well microtiter plate format. These allow only around 0.02 samples of PCR products/mm² of surface to be obtained.

For example, using the commercially available Nucleolink™ system (Nunc A/S, Roskilde, Denmark) it is

possible to achieve simultaneous amplification and
arraying of samples at a density of 0.02 samples/mm² in
wells on the surface of which oligonucleotide primers
have been grafted. However, technical problems mean
5 that it is unlikely that a significant increase in this
sample density will be achieved with this approach.

Thus, it can be seen that in order to increase
throughput there is a need in the art for new methods of
nucleic acid amplification which allow the simultaneous
10 amplification and array of nucleic acid samples at a
higher density, and furthermore, allows the monitoring
of samples at a faster rate, preferably in parallel.

In addition, it is apparent that there is a need in
the art for new methods of sequencing which allow large
15 numbers of samples to be processed and sequenced in
parallel, i.e. there is a need for methods of sequencing
which allow significant multiplexing of the process.
Significant multiplexing of the sequencing process would
in turn lead to a higher throughput than that achievable
20 with the methods of sequencing known in the art. Such
new methods would be even more desirable if they could
achieve such high throughput sequencing at a reasonable
cost and with less labour intensiveness than
conventional sequencing techniques.

25 The present invention describes new methods of
solid-phase nucleic acid amplification which enable a
large number of distinct nucleic acid sequences to be
arrayed and amplified simultaneously and at a high
density. The invention also describes methods by which
30 a large number of distinct amplified nucleic acid
sequences can be monitored at a fast rate and, if
desired, in parallel. The invention also describes
methods by which the sequences of a large number of
distinct nucleic acids can be determined simultaneously
35 and within a short period of time. The methods are
particularly useful in, but not limited to, the
sequencing of a whole genome, or situations where many

genes (e.g. 500) from many individuals (e.g. 500) have to be sequenced simultaneously, or the simultaneous scoring of large numbers (e.g. millions) of polymorphisms, or the monitoring of the expression of a large number of genes (e.g. 100,000) simultaneously.

The present invention therefore provides a method for amplification of at least one nucleic acid comprising the following steps:-

(1) forming at least one nucleic acid template comprising the nucleic acid(s) to be amplified, wherein said nucleic acid(s) contains at the 5' end an oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3' end an oligonucleotide sequence Z and, in addition, the nucleic acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support;

(2) mixing said nucleic acid template(s) with one or more colony primers X, which can hybridize to the oligonucleotide sequence Z and carries at the 5' end a means for attaching the colony primers to a solid support, in the presence of a solid support so that the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template and the colony primers bind to the solid support;

(3) performing one or more nucleic acid amplification reactions on the bound template(s), so that nucleic acid colonies are generated.

In a further embodiment of the invention, two different colony primers X are mixed with the nucleic acid template(s) in step (2) of the method. Preferably the sequences of colony primers X are such that the oligonucleotide sequence Z can hybridise to one of the colony primers X and the oligonucleotide sequence Y is the same as one of the colony primers X.

In an alternative embodiment of the invention, the oligonucleotide sequence Z is complementary to oligonucleotide sequence Y, referred to as Y' and colony primer X is of the same sequence as oligonucleotide sequence Y.

In a yet further embodiment of the invention, the colony primer X may comprise a degenerate primer sequence and the nucleic acid template(s) comprise the nucleic acid(s) to be amplified and do not contain oligonucleotide sequences Y or Z at the 5' and 3' ends respectively.

In a further aspect of the invention, the method comprises the additional step of performing at least one step of sequence determination of one or more of the nucleic acid colonies generated in step (3).

Thus the invention also provides a method for sequencing of at least one nucleic acid comprising the following steps:-

(1) forming at least one nucleic acid template comprising the nucleic acid(s) to be sequenced, wherein said nucleic acid(s) contains at the 5' end an oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3' end an oligonucleotide sequence Z and, in addition, the nucleic acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support;

(2) mixing said nucleic acid template(s) with one or more colony primers X, which can hybridize to the oligonucleotide sequence Z and carries at the 5' end a means for attaching the colony primers to a solid support, in the presence of a solid support so that the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template and the colony primers bind to the solid support;

(3) performing one or more nucleic acid amplification reactions on the bound template(s), so that nucleic acid colonies are generated; and

(4) performing at least one step of sequence determination of at least one of the nucleic acid colonies generated.

In a further embodiment of the invention the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template(s) and the colony primers carry a means for attaching the nucleic acid sequences covalently to the solid support. Preferably

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this means for covalent attachment is a chemically modifiable functional group, such as for example, a phosphate group, a carboxylic or aldehyde moiety, a thiol, a hydroxyl, a dimethoxyltrityl (DMT), or an amino group, preferably an amino group.

5 Nucleic acids which may be amplified according to the methods of the invention include DNA, for example, genomic DNA, cDNA, recombinant DNA or any form of synthetic or modified DNA, RNA, mRNA or any form of
10 synthetic or modified RNA. Said nucleic acids may vary in length and may be fragments or smaller parts of larger nucleic acid molecules. Preferably the nucleic acid to be amplified is at least 50 base pairs in length and more preferably 150 to 4000 base pairs in length.
15 The nucleic acid to be amplified may have a known or unknown sequence and may be in a single or double-stranded form. The nucleic acid to be amplified may be derived from any source.

"Nucleic acid template" as used herein refers to an
20 entity which comprises the nucleic acid to be amplified or sequenced in a single-stranded form. As outlined below the nucleic acid to be amplified or sequenced can also be provided in a double stranded form. Thus, "nucleic acid templates" of the invention may be single
25 or double stranded nucleic acids. The nucleic acid templates to be used in the method of the invention can be of variable lengths. Preferably they are at least 50 base pairs in length and more preferably 150 to 4000 base pairs in length. The nucleotides making up the
30 nucleic acid templates may be naturally occurring or non-naturally occurring nucleotides. The nucleic acid templates of the invention not only comprise the nucleic acid to be amplified but may in addition contain at the 5' and 3' end short oligonucleotide sequences. The
35 oligonucleotide sequence contained at the 5' end is referred to herein as Y. Oligonucleotide sequence Y is of a known sequence and can be of variable length.

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Oligonucleotide sequence Y for use in the methods of the present invention is preferably at least five nucleotides in length, preferably between 5 and 100 nucleotides in length and more preferably of approximately 20 nucleotides in length. Naturally occurring or non-naturally occurring nucleotides may be present in the oligonucleotide sequence Y. As indicated above, preferably the sequence of oligonucleotide Y is the same as the sequence of colony primer X. The oligonucleotide sequence contained at the 3' end of the nucleic acid templates of the invention is referred to herein as Z. Oligonucleotide sequence Z is of a known sequence and can be of variable length. Oligonucleotide sequence Z for use in the methods of the present invention is preferably at least five nucleotides in length, preferably between 5 and 100 nucleotides in length and more preferably of approximately 20 nucleotides in length. Naturally occurring or non-naturally occurring nucleotides may be present in the oligonucleotide sequence Z. Oligonucleotide sequence Z is designed so that it hybridises with one of the colony primers X and preferably is designed so that it is complementary to oligonucleotide sequence Y, referred to herein as Y'. The oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z contained at the 5' and 3' ends respectively of a nucleic acid template need not be located at the extreme ends of the template. For example although the oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z are preferably located at or near the 5' and 3' ends (or termini) respectively of the nucleic acid templates (for example within 0 to 100 nucleotides of the 5' and 3' termini) they may be located further away (e.g. greater than 100 nucleotides) from the 5' or 3' termini of the nucleic acid template. The oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z may therefore be located at any position within the nucleic acid template providing the sequences Y and Z are on either side, i.e. flank, the nucleic acid sequence which is to be

amplified.

"Nucleic acid template" as used herein also includes an entity which comprises the nucleic acid to be amplified or sequenced in a double-stranded form.

5 When the nucleic acid template is in a double-stranded form, the oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z are contained at the 5' and 3' ends respectively of one of the strands. The other strand, due to the base pairing rules of DNA, is complementary to the strand containing
10 oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z and thus contains an oligonucleotide sequence Z' at the 5' end and an oligonucleotide sequence Y' at the 3' end.

"Colony primer" as used herein refers to an entity which comprises an oligonucleotide sequence which is
15 capable of hybridizing to a complementary sequence and initiate a specific polymerase reaction. The sequence comprising the colony primer is chosen such that it has maximal hybridising activity with its complementary sequence and very low non-specific hybridising activity
20 to any other sequence. The sequence to be used as a colony primer can include any sequence, but preferably includes 5'-AGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG or 5'-CACCAACCCAAACCAACCCAAACC. The colony primer can be 5 to 100 bases in length, but preferably 15 to 25 bases in
25 length. Naturally occurring or non-naturally occurring nucleotides may be present in the primer. One or two different colony primers may be used to generate nucleic acid colonies in the methods of the present invention. The colony primers for use in the present invention may
30 also include degenerate primer sequences.

"Degenerate primer sequences" as used herein refers to a short oligonucleotide sequence which is capable of hybridizing to any nucleic acid fragment independent of the sequence of said nucleic acid fragment. Such
35 degenerate primers thus do not require the presence of oligonucleotide sequences Y or Z in the nucleic acid template(s) for hybridization to the template to occur,

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although the use of degenerate primers to hybridise to a template containing the oligonucleotide sequences X or Y is not excluded. Clearly however, for use in the amplification methods of the present invention, the degenerate primers must hybridise to nucleic acid sequences in the template at sites either side, or flanking, the nucleic acid sequence which is to be amplified.

"Solid support" as used herein refers to any solid surface to which nucleic acids can be covalently attached, such as for example latex beads, dextran beads, polystyrene, polypropylene surface, polyacrylamide gel, gold surfaces, glass surfaces and silicon wafers. Preferably the solid support is a glass surface.

"Means for attaching nucleic acids to a solid support" as used herein refers to any chemical or non-chemical attachment method including chemically-modifiable functional groups. "Attachment" relates to immobilization of nucleic acid on solid supports by either a covalent attachment or via irreversible passive adsorption or via affinity between molecules (for example, immobilization on an avidin-coated surface by biotinylated molecules). The attachment must be of sufficient strength that it cannot be removed by washing with water or aqueous buffer under DNA-denaturing conditions.

"Chemically-modifiable functional group" as used herein refers to a group such as for example, a phosphate group, a carboxylic or aldehyde moiety, a thiol, or an amino group.

"Nucleic acid colony" as used herein refers to a discrete area comprising multiple copies of a nucleic acid strand. Multiple copies of the complementary strand to the nucleic acid strand may also be present in the same colony. The multiple copies of the nucleic acid strands making up the colonies are generally

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immobilised on a solid support and may be in a single or double stranded form. The nucleic acid colonies of the invention can be generated in different sizes and densities depending on the conditions used. The size of colonies is preferably from 0.2 μm to 6 μm , more preferably from 0.3 μm to 4 μm . The density of nucleic acid colonies for use in the method of the invention is typically 10,000/ mm^2 to 100,000/ mm^2 . It is believed that higher densities, for example, 100,000/ mm^2 to 1,000,000/ mm^2 and 1,000,000/ mm^2 to 10,000,000/ mm^2 may be achieved.

The methods of the invention can be used to generate nucleic acid colonies. Thus, a further aspect of the invention provides one or more nucleic acid colonies. A nucleic acid colony of the invention may be generated from a single immobilised nucleic acid template of the invention. The method of the invention allows the simultaneous production of a number of such nucleic acid colonies, each of which may contain different immobilised nucleic acid strands.

Thus, a yet further aspect of the invention provides a plurality of nucleic acid templates comprising the nucleic acids to be amplified, wherein said nucleic acids contain at their 5' ends an oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3' end an oligonucleotide sequence Z and, in addition, the nucleic acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support. Preferably this plurality of nucleic acid templates are mixed with a plurality of colony primers X which can hybridize to the oligonucleotide sequence Z and carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the colony primers to a solid support. Preferably said plurality of nucleic acid templates and colony primers are covalently bound to a solid support.

In a further embodiment of the invention, pluralities of two different colony primers X are mixed

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with the plurality of nucleic acid templates.

Preferably the sequences of colony primers X are such that the oligonucleotide sequence Z can hybridise to one of the colony primers X and the oligonucleotide sequence Y is the same as the sequence of one of the colony primers X.

In an alternative embodiment, the oligonucleotide sequence Z is complementary to oligonucleotide sequence Y, (Y') and the plurality of colony primers X are of the same sequence as oligonucleotide sequence Y.

In a yet further embodiment, the plurality of colony primers X may comprise a degenerate primer sequence and the plurality of nucleic acid templates comprise the nucleic acids to be amplified and do not contain oligonucleotide sequences Y or Z at the 5' and 3' ends respectively.

The nucleic acid templates of the invention may be prepared using techniques which are standard or conventional in the art. Generally these will be based on genetic engineering techniques.

The nucleic acids to be amplified can be obtained using methods well known and documented in the art. For example, by obtaining a nucleic acid sample such as, total DNA, genomic DNA, cDNA, total RNA, mRNA etc. by methods well known and documented in the art and generating fragments therefrom by, for example, limited restriction enzyme digestion or by mechanical means.

Typically, the nucleic acid to be amplified is first obtained in double stranded form. When the nucleic acid is provided in single stranded form, for example mRNA, it is first made into a double stranded form by means well known and documented in the art, for example, using oligo-dT primers and reverse transcriptase and DNA polymerase. Once the nucleic acid to be amplified is obtained in double stranded form of appropriate length, oligonucleotide sequences corresponding to the oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z

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are joined to each end, i.e. to both the 5' and 3' ends of the nucleic acid sequence to form a nucleic acid template. This can be done using methods which are well known and documented in the art, for example by ligation, or by inserting the nucleic acid to be amplified into a biological vector at a site which is flanked by the appropriate oligonucleotide sequences. Alternatively, if at least part of the sequence of the nucleic acid to be amplified is known, the nucleic acid template containing oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z at the 5' and 3' ends respectively, may be generated by PCR using appropriate PCR primers which include sequences specific to the nucleic acid to be amplified. Before attaching the nucleic acid template to the solid support, it can be made into a single stranded form using methods which are well known and documented in the art, for example by heating to approximately 94°C and quickly cooling to 0°C on ice.

The oligonucleotide sequence contained at the 5' end of the nucleic acid can be of any sequence and any length and is denoted herein as sequence Y. Suitable lengths and sequences of oligonucleotide can be selected using methods well known and documented in the art. For example the oligonucleotide sequences attached to each end of the nucleic acid to be amplified are normally relatively short nucleotide sequences of between 5 and 100 nucleotides in length. The oligonucleotide sequence contained at the 3' end of the nucleic acid can be of any sequence and any length and is denoted herein as sequence Z. Suitable lengths and sequences of oligonucleotide can be selected using methods well known and documented in the art. For example the oligonucleotide sequences contained at each end of the nucleic acid to be amplified are normally relatively short nucleotide sequences of between 5 and 100 nucleotides in length.

The sequence of the oligonucleotide sequence Z is

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such that it can hybridise to one of the colony primers X. Preferably, the sequence of the oligonucleotide sequence Y is such that it is the same as one of the colony primers X. More preferably, the oligonucleotide sequence Z is complementary to oligonucleotide sequence Y (Y') and the colony primers X are of the same sequence as oligonucleotide sequence Y.

The oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z of the invention may be prepared using techniques which are standard or conventional in the art, or may be purchased from commercial sources.

When producing the nucleic acid templates of the invention additional desirable sequences can be introduced by methods well known and documented in the art. Such additional sequences include, for example, restriction enzyme sites or certain nucleic acid tags to enable amplification products of a given nucleic acid template sequence to be identified. Other desirable sequences include fold-back DNA sequences (which form hairpin loops or other secondary structures when rendered single-stranded), 'control' DNA sequences which direct protein/DNA interactions, such as for example a promoter DNA sequence which is recognised by a nucleic acid polymerase or an operator DNA sequence which is recognised by a DNA-binding protein.

If there are a plurality of nucleic acid sequences to be amplified then the attachment of oligonucleotides Y and Z can be carried out in the same or different reaction.

Once a nucleic acid template has been prepared, it may be amplified before being used in the methods of the present invention. Such amplification may be carried out using methods well known and documented in the art, for example by inserting the template nucleic acid into an expression vector and amplifying it in a suitable biological host, or amplifying it by PCR. This amplification step is not however essential, as the

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method of the invention allows multiple copies of the nucleic acid template to be produced in a nucleic acid colony generated from a single copy of the nucleic acid template.

5 Preferably the 5' end of the nucleic acid template prepared as described above is modified to carry a means for attaching the nucleic acid templates covalently to a solid support. Such a means can be, for example, a chemically modifiable functional group, such as, for
10 example a phosphate group, a carboxylic or aldehyde moiety, a thiol, or an amino group. Most preferably, the thiol, phosphate or amino group is used for 5'-modification of the nucleic acid.

 The colony primers of the invention may be prepared
15 using techniques which are standard or conventional in the art. Generally, the colony primers of the invention will be synthetic oligonucleotides generated by methods well known and documented in the art or may be purchased from commercial sources.

20 According to the method of the invention one or two different colony primers X, can be used to amplify any nucleic acid sequence. This contrasts with and has an advantage over many of the amplification methods known in the art such as, for example, that disclosed in WO
25 96/04404, where different specific primers must be designed for each particular nucleic acid sequence to be amplified.

 Preferably the 5' ends of colony primers X of the invention are modified to carry a means for attaching
30 the colony primers covalently to the solid support. Preferably this means for covalent attachment is a chemically modifiable functional group as described above. If desired, the colony primers can be designed to include additional desired sequences such as, for
35 example, restriction endonuclease sites or other types of cleavage sites each as ribozyme cleavage sites. Other desirable sequences include fold-back DNA

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sequences (which form hairpin loops or other secondary structures when rendered single-stranded), 'control' DNA sequences which direct a protein/DNA interaction, such as for example a promoter DNA sequence which is
5 recognised by a nucleic acid polymerase or an operator DNA sequence which is recognised by a DNA-binding protein.

Immobilisation of a colony primer X to a support by the 5' end leaves its 3' end remote from the support
10 such that the colony primer is available for chain extension by a polymerase once hybridisation with a complementary oligonucleotide sequence contained at the 3' end of the nucleic acid template has taken place.

Once both the nucleic acid templates and colony
15 primers of the invention have been synthesised they are mixed together in appropriate proportions so that when they are attached to the solid support an appropriate density of attached nucleic acid templates and colony primers is obtained. Preferably the proportion of
20 colony primers in the mixture is higher than the proportion of nucleic acid templates. Preferably the ratio of colony primers to nucleic acid templates is such that when the colony primers and nucleic acid templates are immobilised to the solid support a "lawn"
25 of colony primers is formed comprising a plurality of colony primers being located at an approximately uniform density over the whole or a defined area of the solid support, with one or more nucleic acid templates being immobilised individually at intervals within the lawn of
30 colony primers.

The nucleic acid templates may be provided in single stranded form. However, they may also be provided totally or partly in double stranded form, either with one 5' end or both 5' ends modified so as to
35 allow attachment to the support. In that case, after completion of the attachment process, one might want to separate strands by means known in the art, e.g. by

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heating to 94°C, before washing the released strands away. It will be appreciated that in the case where both strands of the double stranded molecules have reacted with the surface and are both attached, the result will be the same as in the case when only one strand is attached and one amplification step has been performed. In other words, in the case where both strands of a double stranded template nucleic acid have been attached, both strands are necessarily attached close to each other and are indistinguishable from the result of attaching only one strand and performing one amplification step. Thus, single stranded and double stranded template nucleic acids might be used for providing template nucleic acids attached to the surface and suitable for colony generation.

The distance between the individual colony primers and the individual nucleic acid templates (and hence the density of the colony primers and nucleic acid templates) can be controlled by altering the concentration of colony primers and nucleic acid templates that are immobilised to the support. A preferred density of colony primers is at least 1 fmol/mm², preferably at least 10 fmol/mm², more preferably between 30 to 60 fmol/mm². The density of nucleic acid templates for use in the method of the invention is typically 10,000/mm² to 100,000/mm². It is believed that higher densities, for example, 100,000/mm² to 1,000,000/mm² and 1,000,000/mm² to 10,000,000/mm² may be achieved.

Controlling the density of attached nucleic acid templates and colony primers in turn allows the final density of nucleic acid colonies on the surface of the support to be controlled. This is due to the fact that according to the method of the invention, one nucleic acid colony can result from the attachment of one nucleic acid template, providing the colony primers of the invention are present in a suitable location on the

solid support (see in more detail below). The density of nucleic acid molecules within a single colony can also be controlled by controlling the density of attached colony primers.

5 Once the colony primers and nucleic acid templates of the invention have been immobilised on the solid support at the appropriate density, nucleic acid colonies of the invention can then be generated by carrying out an appropriate number of cycles of
10 amplification on the covalently bound template nucleic acid so that each colony comprises multiple copies of the original immobilised nucleic acid template and its complementary sequence. One cycle of amplification consists of the steps of hybridisation, extension and
15 denaturation and these steps are generally performed using reagents and conditions well known in the art for PCR.

 A typical amplification reaction comprises subjecting the solid support and attached nucleic acid
20 template and colony primers to conditions which induce primer hybridisation, for example subjecting them to a temperature of around 65°C. Under these conditions the oligonucleotide sequence Z at the 3' end of the nucleic acid template will hybridise to the immobilised colony
25 primer X and in the presence of conditions and reagents to support primer extension, for example a temperature of around 72°C, the presence of a nucleic acid polymerase, for example, a DNA dependent DNA polymerase or a reverse transcriptase molecule (i.e. an RNA
30 dependent DNA polymerase), or an RNA polymerase, plus a supply of nucleoside triphosphate molecules or any other nucleotide precursors, for example modified nucleoside triphosphate molecules, the colony primer will be
35 extended by the addition of nucleotides complementary to the template nucleic acid sequence.

 Examples of nucleic acid polymerases which can be used in the present invention are DNA polymerase (Klenow

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fragment, T4 DNA polymerase), heat-stable DNA polymerases from a variety of thermostable bacteria (such as Taq, VENT, Pfu, Tfl DNA polymerases) as well as their genetically modified derivatives (TaqGold, VENTexo, Pfu exo). A combination of RNA polymerase and reverse transcriptase can also be used to generate the amplification of a DNA colony. Preferably the nucleic acid polymerase used for colony primer extension is stable under PCR reaction conditions, i.e. repeated cycles of heating and cooling, and is stable at the denaturation temperature used, usually approximately 94°C. Preferably the DNA polymerase used is Taq DNA polymerase.

Preferably the nucleoside triphosphate molecules used are deoxyribonucleotide triphosphates, for example dATP, dTTP, dCTP, dGTP, or are ribonucleoside triphosphates for example dATP, dUTP, dCTP, dGTP. The nucleoside triphosphate molecules may be naturally or non-naturally occurring.

After the hybridisation and extension steps, on subjecting the support and attached nucleic acids to denaturation conditions two immobilised nucleic acids will be present, the first being the initial immobilised nucleic acid template and the second being a nucleic acid complementary thereto, extending from one of the immobilised colony primers X. Both the original immobilised nucleic acid template and the immobilised extended colony primer formed are then able to initiate further rounds of amplification on subjecting the support to further cycles of hybridisation, extension and denaturation. Such further rounds of amplification will result in a nucleic acid colony comprising multiple immobilised copies of the template nucleic acid and its complementary sequence.

The initial immobilisation of the template nucleic acid means that the template nucleic acid can only hybridise with colony primers located at a distance

within the total length of the template nucleic acid. Thus the boundary of the nucleic acid colony formed is limited to a relatively local area to the area in which the initial template nucleic acid was immobilised.

5 Clearly, once more copies of the template molecule and its complement have been synthesised by carrying out further rounds of amplification, ie. further rounds of hybridisation, extension and denaturation, then the boundary of the nucleic acid colony being generated will
10 be able to be extended further, although the boundary of the colony formed is still limited to a relatively local area to the area in which the initial nucleic acid template was immobilised.

A schematic representation of a method of nucleic acid colony generation according to an embodiment of the
15 present invention is shown in Figure 1. Figure 1(a) shows a colony primer X of the invention (shown here as having the sequence ATT), and a nucleic acid template of the invention containing at the 5' end an
20 oligonucleotide sequence Y, here shown as ATT and at the 3' end an oligonucleotide sequence Z, here shown as AAT, which can hybridise to the colony primer sequence X. In the schematic representation the colony primer X and the oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z are shown as being of
25 only three nucleotides in length. In practice however, it will be appreciated that longer sequences would normally be used. The 5' ends of both the colony primer and the nucleic acid template carry a means for
30 attaching the nucleic acid to a solid support. This means is denoted in Figure 1 as a black square. This means of attaching may result in a covalent or a non-covalent attachment.

Only one colony primer X and one template nucleic acid are shown in Figure 1(a) for simplicity. However,
35 in practice a plurality of colony primers X will be present with a plurality of nucleic acid templates. The plurality of colony primers X may comprise two different

colony primers X. However, for simplicity the schematic representation shown in Figure 1 shows only one type of colony primer X, with the sequence ATT. The plurality of nucleic acid templates may comprise different nucleic acid sequences in the central portion between the oligonucleotides Y and Z, but contain the same oligonucleotide sequences Y and Z at the 5' and 3' ends respectively. Only one species of nucleic acid template is shown for simplicity in Figure 1, in which a portion of the sequence in the central portion is shown as CGG.

In the presence of a solid support, the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template and colony primer bind to the support. This is depicted in Figure 1(b). The support and the attached nucleic acid template and colony primers are then subjected to conditions which induce primer hybridisation. Figure 1(c) shows a nucleic acid template that has hybridised to a colony primer. Such hybridisation is enabled by virtue of the fact that the oligonucleotide sequence Z at the 3' end of the nucleic acid template can hybridise to the colony primer. In the schematic representation oligonucleotide sequence Z is shown to be complementary to the colony primer, although in practice an exact complementary sequence is not essential, providing hybridisation can occur under the conditions the nucleic acid templates and colony primers are subjected to.

Figure 1(d) shows the stage of primer extension. Here, under appropriate conditions of temperature and in the presence of a DNA polymerase and a supply of nucleotide precursors, for example dATP, dTTP, dCTP and dGTP, the DNA polymerase extends the colony primer from its 3' end using the nucleic acid template as a template. When primer extension is complete, see Figure 1(e), it can be seen that a second immobilised nucleic acid strand has been generated which is complementary to the initial nucleic acid template. On separating the two nucleic acid strands by, for example heating, two

immobilised nucleic acids will be present, the first being the initial immobilised nucleic acid template and the second being a nucleic acid complementary thereto, extending from one of the immobilised colony primers X, see Figure 1(f).

Both the original immobilised nucleic acid template and the immobilised extended colony primer formed are then able to hybridise to other colony primers present (depicted as colony primers 2 and 3 in Figure 1(g)) and after a further round of primer extension (Figure 1(h)) and strand separation (Figure 1(i)), four single stranded immobilised strands are provided. Two of these contain sequences corresponding to the original nucleic acid template and two contain sequences complementary thereto.

Further rounds of amplification beyond those shown in Figure 1 can be carried out to result in a nucleic acid colony comprising multiple immobilised copies of the template nucleic acid and its complementary sequence.

It can thus be seen that the method of the present invention allows the generation of a nucleic acid colony from a single immobilised nucleic acid template and that the size of these colonies can be controlled by altering the number of rounds of amplification that the nucleic acid template is subjected to. Thus the number of nucleic acid colonies formed on the surface of the solid support is dependent upon the number of nucleic acid templates which are initially immobilised to the support, providing there is a sufficient number of immobilised colony primers within the locality of each immobilised nucleic acid template. It is for this reason that preferably the solid support to which the colony primers and nucleic acid templates have been immobilised comprises a lawn of immobilised colony primers at an appropriate density with nucleic acid templates immobilised at intervals within the lawn of

primers.

Such so called "autopatterning" of nucleic acid colonies has an advantage over many methods of the prior art in that a higher density of nucleic acid colonies can be obtained due to the fact that the density can be controlled by regulating the density at which the nucleic acid templates are originally immobilised. Such a method is thus not limited by, for example, having specifically to array specific primers on particular local areas of the support and then initiate colony formation by spotting a particular sample containing nucleic acid template on the same local area of primer. The numbers of colonies that can be arrayed using prior art methods, for example those disclosed in WO96/04404 (Mosaic Technologies, Inc.) is thus limited by the density/spacing at which the specific primer areas can be arrayed in the initial step.

By being able to control the initial density of the nucleic acid templates and hence the density of the nucleic acid colonies resulting from the nucleic acid templates, together with being able to control the size of the nucleic acid colonies formed and in addition the density of the nucleic acid templates within individual colonies, an optimum situation can be reached wherein a high density of individual nucleic acid colonies can be produced on a solid support of a large enough size and containing a large enough number of amplified sequences to enable subsequent analysis or monitoring to be performed on the nucleic acid colonies.

Once nucleic acid colonies have been generated it may be desirable to carry out an additional step such as for example colony visualisation or sequence determination (see later). Colony visualisation might for example be required if it was necessary to screen the colonies generated for the presence or absence of for example the whole or part of a particular nucleic acid fragment. In this case the colony or colonies

which contain the particular nucleic acid fragment could be detected by designing a nucleic acid probe which specifically hybridises to the nucleic acid fragment of interest.

5 Such a nucleic acid probe is preferably labelled with a detectable entity such as a fluorescent group, a biotin containing entity (which can be detected by for example an incubation with streptavidin labelled with a fluorescent group), a radiolabel (which can be
10 incorporated into a nucleic acid probe by methods well known and documented in the art and detected by detecting radioactivity for example by incubation with scintillation fluid), or a dye or other staining agent.

15 Alternatively, such a nucleic acid probe may be unlabelled and designed to act as a primer for the incorporation of a number of labelled nucleotides with a nucleic acid polymerase. Detection of the incorporated label and thus the nucleic acid colonies can then be carried out.

20 The nucleic acid colonies of the invention are then prepared for hybridisation. Such preparation involves the treatment of the colonies so that all or part of the nucleic acid templates making up the colonies is present in a single stranded form. This can be achieved for
25 example by heat denaturation of any double stranded DNA in the colonies. Alternatively the colonies may be treated with a restriction endonuclease specific for a double stranded form of a sequence in the template nucleic acid. Thus the endonuclease may be specific for
30 either a sequence contained in the oligonucleotide sequences Y or Z or another sequence present in the template nucleic acid. After digestion the colonies are heated so that double stranded DNA molecules are separated and the colonies are washed to remove the non-
35 immobilised strands thus leaving attached single stranded DNA in the colonies.

After preparation of the colonies for

hybridisation, the labelled or unlabelled probe is then added to the colonies under conditions appropriate for the hybridisation of the probe with its specific DNA sequence. Such conditions may be determined by a person skilled in the art using known methods and will depend on for example the sequence of the probe.

The probe may then be removed by heat denaturation and, if desired, a probe specific for a second nucleic acid may be hybridised and detected. These steps may be repeated as many times as is desired.

Labelled probes which are hybridised to nucleic acid colonies can then be detected using apparatus including an appropriate detection device. A preferred detection system for fluorescent labels is a charge-coupled device (CCD) camera, which can optionally be coupled to a magnifying device, for example a microscope. Using such technology it is possible to simultaneously monitor many colonies in parallel. For example, using a microscope with a CCD camera and a 10x or 20x objective it is possible to observe colonies over a surface of between 1 mm² and 4 mm², which corresponds to monitoring between 10 000 and 200 000 colonies in parallel. Moreover, it is anticipated that this number will increase with improved optics and larger chips.

An alternative method of monitoring the colonies generated is to scan the surface covered with colonies. For example systems in which up to 100 000 000 colonies could be arrayed simultaneously and monitored by taking pictures with the CCD camera over the whole surface can be used. In this way, it can be seen that up to 100 000 000 colonies could be monitored in a short time.

Any other devices allowing detection and preferably quantitation of fluorescence on a surface may be used to monitor the nucleic acid colonies of the invention. For example fluorescent imagers or confocal microscopes could be used.

If the labels are radioactive then a radioactivity

detection system would be required.

In methods of the present invention wherein the additional step of performing at least one step of sequence determination of at least one of the nucleic acid colonies generated is performed, said sequence determination may be carried out using any appropriate solid phase sequencing technique. For example, one technique of sequence determination that may be used in the present invention involves hybridising an appropriate primer, sometimes referred to herein as a "sequencing primer", with the nucleic acid template to be sequenced, extending the primer and detecting the nucleotides used to extend the primer. Preferably the nucleic acid used to extend the primer is detected before a further nucleotide is added to the growing nucleic acid chain, thus allowing base by base in situ nucleic acid sequencing.

The detection of incorporated nucleotides is facilitated by including one or more labelled nucleotides in the primer extension reaction. Any appropriate detectable label may be used, for example a fluorophore, radiolabel etc. Preferably a fluorescent label is used. The same or different labels may be used for each different type of nucleotide. Where the label is a fluorophore and the same labels are used for each different type of nucleotide, each nucleotide incorporation can provide a cumulative increase in signal detected at a particular wavelength. If different labels are used then these signals may be detected at different appropriate wavelengths. If desired a mixture of labelled and unlabelled nucleotides are provided.

In order to allow the hybridisation of an appropriate sequencing primer to the nucleic acid template to be sequenced the nucleic acid template should normally be in a single stranded form. If the nucleic acid templates making up the nucleic acid

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colonies are present in a double stranded form these can be processed to provide single stranded nucleic acid templates using methods well known in the art, for example by denaturation, cleavage etc.

5 The sequencing primers which are hybridised to the nucleic acid template and used for primer extension are preferably short oligonucleotides, for example of 15 to 25 nucleotides in length. The sequence of the primers is designed so that they hybridise to part of the
10 nucleic acid template to be sequenced, preferably under stringent conditions. The sequence of the primers used for sequencing may have the same or similar sequences to that of the colony primers used to generate the nucleic acid colonies of the invention. The sequencing primers
15 may be provided in solution or in an immobilised form.

 Once the sequencing primer has been annealed to the nucleic acid template to be sequenced by subjecting the nucleic acid template and sequencing primer to appropriate conditions, determined by methods well known
20 in the art, primer extension is carried out, for example using a nucleic acid polymerase and a supply of nucleotides, at least some of which are provided in a labelled form, and conditions suitable for primer extension if a suitable nucleotide is provided.
25 Examples of nucleic acid polymerases and nucleotides which may be used are described above.

 Preferably after each primer extension step a washing step is included in order to remove unincorporated nucleotides which may interfere with
30 subsequent steps. Once the primer extension step has been carried out the nucleic acid colony is monitored in order to determine whether a labelled nucleotide has been incorporated into an extended primer. The primer extension step may then be repeated in order to
35 determine the next and subsequent nucleotides incorporated into an extended primer.

 Any device allowing detection and preferably

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quantitation of the appropriate label, for example fluorescence or radioactivity, may be used for sequence determination. If the label is fluorescent a CCD camera optionally attached to a magnifying device (as described above), may be used. In fact the devices used for the sequence determining aspects of the present invention may be the same as those described above for monitoring the amplified nucleic acid colonies.

The detection system is preferably used in combination with an analysis system in order to determine the number and nature of the nucleotides incorporated at each colony after each step of primer extension. This analysis, which may be carried out immediately after each primer extension step, or later using recorded data, allows the sequence of the nucleic acid template within a given colony to be determined.

If the sequence being determined is unknown, the nucleotides applied to a given colony are usually applied in a chosen order which is then repeated throughout the analysis, for example dATP, dTTP, dCTP, dGTP. If however, the sequence being determined is known and is being resequenced, for example to analyse whether or not small differences in sequence from the known sequence are present, the sequencing determination process may be made quicker by adding the nucleotides at each step in the appropriate order, chosen according to the known sequence. Differences from the given sequence are thus detected by the lack of incorporation of certain nucleotides at particular stages of primer extension.

Thus it can be seen that full or partial sequences of the amplified nucleic acid templates making up particular nucleic acid colonies may be determined using the methods of the present invention.

In a further embodiment of the present invention, the full or partial sequence of more than one nucleic acid can be determined by determining the full or

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partial sequence of the amplified nucleic acid templates present in more than one nucleic acid colony. Preferably a plurality of sequences are determined simultaneously.

5 Carrying out sequence determination of nucleic acids using the method of the present invention has the advantage that it is likely to be very reliable due to the fact that large numbers of each nucleic acid to be sequenced are provided within each nucleic acid colony
10 of the invention. If desired, further improvements in reliability can be obtained by providing a plurality of nucleic acid colonies comprising the same nucleic acid template to be sequenced, then determining the sequence for each of the plurality of colonies and comparing the
15 sequences thus determined.

 Preferably the attachment of the colony primer and nucleic acid template to the solid support is thermostable at the temperature to which the support may be subjected to during the nucleic acid amplification
20 reaction, for example temperatures of up to approximately 100°C, for example approximately 94°C. Preferably the attachment is covalent in nature.

 In a yet further embodiment of the invention the covalent binding of the colony primers and nucleic acid
25 template(s) to the solid support is induced by a crosslinking agent such as for example 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC), succinic anhydride, phenyldiisothiocyanate or maleic anhydride, or a hetero-bifunctional crosslinker such as
30 for example m-maleimidobenzoyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (MBS), N-succinimidyl[4-iodoacethyl] aminobenzoate (SIAB), Succinimidyl 4-[N-maleimidomethyl]cyclohexane-1-carboxylate (SMCC), N-γ-maleimidobutyryloxy-succinimide ester (GMBS), Succinimidyl-4-[p-maleimidophenyl]
35 butyrate (SMPB) and the sulfo (water-soluble) corresponding compounds. The preferred crosslinking reagents for use in the present invention, are s-SIAB,

s-MBS and EDC.

In a yet further embodiment of the invention the solid support has a derivatised surface. In a yet further embodiment the derivatised surface of the solid support is subsequently modified with bifunctional crosslinking groups to provide a functionalised surface, preferably with reactive crosslinking groups.

"Derivatised surface" as used herein refers to a surface which has been modified with chemically reactive groups, for example amino, thiol or acrylate groups.

"Functionalised surface" as used herein refers to a derivatised surface which has been modified with specific functional groups, for example the maleic or succinic functional moieties.

In the method of the present invention, to be useful for certain applications, the attachment of colony primers and nucleic acid templates to a solid support has to fulfill several requirements. The ideal attachment should not be affected by either the exposure to high temperatures and the repeated heating/cooling cycles employed during the nucleic acid amplification procedure. Moreover the support should allow the obtaining of a density of attached colony primers of at least 1 fmol/mm², preferably at least 10 fmol/mm², more preferably between 30 to 60 fmol/mm². The ideal support should have a uniformly flat surface with low fluorescence background and should also be thermally stable (non-deformable). Solid supports, which allow the passive adsorption of DNA, as in certain types of plastic and synthetic nitrocellulose membranes, are not suitable. Finally, the solid support should be disposable, thus should not be of a high cost.

For these reasons, although the solid support may be any solid surface to which nucleic acids can be attached, such as for example latex beads, dextran beads, polystyrene, polypropylene surface, polyacrylamide gel, gold surfaces, glass surfaces and

silicon wafers, preferably the solid support is a glass surface and the attachment of nucleic acids thereto is a covalent attachment.

5 The covalent binding of the colony primers and nucleic acid templates to the solid support can be carried out using techniques which are known and documented in the art. For example, epoxysilane-amino covalent linkage of oligonucleotides on solid supports such as porous glass beads has been widely used for
10 solid phase in situ synthesis of oligonucleotides (via a 3' end attachment) and has also been adapted for 5' end oligonucleotide attachment. Oligonucleotides modified at the 5' end with carboxylic or aldehyde moieties have been covalently attached on hydrazine-derivatized latex
15 beads (Kremsky et al 1987).

Other approaches for the attachment of oligonucleotides to solid surfaces use crosslinkers, such as succinic anhydride, phenyldiisothiocyanate (Guo et al 1994), or maleic anhydride (Yang et al 1998).
20 Another widely used crosslinker is 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylamonipropyl)-carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC). EDC chemistry was first described by Gilham et al (1968) who attached DNA templates to paper (cellulose) via the 5' end terminal phosphate group. Using EDC chemistry,
25 other supports have been used such as, latex beads (Wolf et al 1987, Lund et al 1988), polystyrene microwells (Rasmussen et al 1991), controlled-pore glass (Ghosh et al 1987) and dextran molecules (Gingeras et al 1987). The condensation of 5' amino-modified oligonucleotides
30 with carbodiimide mediated reagent have been described by Chu et al (1983), and by Egan et al (1982) for 5' terminal phosphate modification group.

The yield of oligonucleotide attachment via the 5' termini using carbodiimides can reach 60%, but non-
35 specific attachment via the internal nucleotides of the oligonucleotide is a major drawback. Rasmussen et al (1991) have enhanced to 85% the specific attachment via

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the 5' end by derivatizing the surface using secondary amino groups.

More recent papers have reported the advantages of the hetero-bifunctional cross-linkers. Hetero- or mono-bifunctional cross-linkers have been widely used to prepare peptide carrier conjugate molecules (peptide-protein) in order to enhance immunogenicity in animals (Peeters et al 1989). Most of these grafting reagents have been described to form stable covalent links in aqueous solution. These crosslinking reagents have been used to bind DNA onto a solid surface at only one point of the molecule.

Chrissey et al (1996) have studied the efficiency and stability of DNA solid phase attachment using 6 different hetero-bifunctional cross-linkers. In this example, the attachment occurs only at the 5' end of DNA oligomers modified by a thiol group. This type of attachment has also been described by O'Donnell-Maloney et al (1996) for the attachment of DNA targets in a MALDI-TOF sequence analysis and by Hamamatsu Photonics F.K. company (EP-A-665293) for determining base sequence of nucleic acid on a solid surface.

Very few studies concerning the thermal stability of the attachment of the oligonucleotides to the solid support have been done. Chrissey et al (1996) reported that with the Succinimidyl-4-[p-maleimidophenyl] butyrate (SMPB) cross-linker, almost 60% of molecules are released from the glass surface during heat treatment. But the thermal stability of the other reagents have not been described.

In order to generate nucleic acid colonies via the solid phase amplification reaction as described in the present application, colony primers and nucleic acid templates need to be specifically attached at their 5' ends to the solid surface, preferably glass. Briefly, the glass surface can be derivatized with reactive amino groups by silanization using amino-alkoxy silanes.

Suitable silane reagents include aminopropyltrimethoxysilane, aminopropyltriethoxysilane and 4-aminobutyltriethoxysilane. Glass surfaces can also be derivatized with other reactive groups, such as acrylate or epoxy using epoxysilane, acrylatesilane and acrylamidesilane. Following the derivatization step, nucleic acid molecules (colony primers or nucleic acid templates) having a chemically modifiable functional group at their 5' end, for example phosphate, thiol or amino groups are covalently attached to the derivatized surface by a crosslinking reagent such as those described above.

Alternatively, the derivatization step can be followed by attaching a bifunctional cross-linking reagent to the surface amino groups thereby providing a modified functionalized surface. Nucleic acid molecules (colony primers or nucleic acid templates) having 5'-phosphate, thiol or amino groups are then reacted with the functionalized surface forming a covalent linkage between the nucleic acid and the glass.

Potential cross-linking and grafting reagents that can be used for covalent DNA/oligonucleotide grafting on the solid support include succinic anhydride, (1-ethyl-3[3-dimethylaminopropyl] carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC), m-maleimidobenzoyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (MBS), N-succinimidyl[4-iodoacethyl] aminobenzoate (SIAB), Succinimidyl 4-[N-maleimidomethyl]cyclohexane-1-carboxylate (SMCC), N-γ-maleimidobutyryloxy-succinimide ester (GMBS), Succinimidyl-4-[p-maleimidophenyl] butyrate (SMPB) and the sulfo (water-soluble) corresponding compounds. The preferred crosslinking reagents, according to the present invention, are s-SIAB, s-MBS and EDC. s-MBS is a maleimide-succinimide hetero-bifunctional cross-linker and s-SIAB is an iodoacethyl-succinimide hetero-bifunctional cross-linker. Both are capable of forming a covalent bond respectively with SH groups and primary amino groups. EDC is a carbodiimide-reagent that mediates covalent

attachment of phosphate and amino groups.

The colony primers and nucleic acid templates are generally modified at the 5' end by a phosphate group or by a primary amino group (for EDC grafting reagent) or a
5 thiol group (for s-SIAB or s-MBS linkers).

Thus, a further aspect of the invention provides a solid support, to which there is attached a plurality of colony primers X as described above and at least one
10 nucleic acid template as described above, wherein said nucleic acid templates contain at their 5' ends an oligonucleotide sequence Y as described above, and at their 3' ends an oligonucleotide sequence Z as described above. Preferably a plurality of nucleic acid templates are attached to said solid support, which is preferably
15 glass. Preferably the attachment of the nucleic acid templates and colony primers to the solid support is covalent. By performing one or more rounds of nucleic acid amplification on the immobilised nucleic acid template(s) using methods as described above, nucleic
20 acid colonies of the invention may be formed. A yet further aspect of the invention is, therefore, a support comprising one or more nucleic acid colonies of the invention. A yet further aspect of the invention provides the use of the solid supports of the invention
25 in methods of nucleic acid amplification or sequencing. Such methods of nucleic acid amplification or sequencing include the methods of the present invention.

A yet further aspect of the invention provides the use of a derivatized or functionalized support, prepared
30 as described above in methods of nucleic acid amplification or sequencing. Such methods of nucleic acid amplification or sequencing include the methods of the present invention.

A yet further aspect of the invention provides an
35 apparatus for carrying out the methods of the invention or an apparatus for producing a solid support comprising nucleic acid colonies of the invention. Such apparatus

might comprise for example a plurality of nucleic acid templates and colony primers of the invention bound, preferably covalently, to a solid support as outlined above, together with a nucleic acid polymerase, a
5 plurality of nucleotide precursors such as those described above, a proportion of which may be labelled, and a means for controlling temperature. Alternatively, the apparatus might comprise for example a support comprising one or more nucleic acid colonies of the
10 invention. Preferably the apparatus also comprises a detecting means for detecting and distinguishing signals from individual nucleic acid colonies arrayed on the solid support according to the methods of the present invention. For example such a detecting means might
15 comprise a charge-coupled device operatively connected to a magnifying device such as a microscope as described above.

Preferably any apparatuses of the invention are provided in an automated form.

20 The present application provides a solution to current and emerging needs that scientists and the biotechnology industry are trying to address in the fields of genomics, pharmacogenomics, drug discovery, food characterization and genotyping. Thus the method
25 of the present invention has potential application in for example: nucleic acid sequencing and re-sequencing, diagnostics and screening, gene expression monitoring, genetic diversity profiling, whole genome polymorphism discovery and scoring, the creation of genome slides
30 (whole genome of a patient on a microscope slide) and whole genome sequencing.

Thus the present invention may be used to carry out nucleic acid sequencing and re-sequencing, where for example a selected number of genes are specifically
35 amplified into colonies for complete DNA sequencing. Gene re-sequencing allows the identification of all known or novel genetic polymorphisms of the investigated

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genes. Applications are in medical diagnosis and genetic identification of living organisms.

For use of the present invention in diagnostics and screening, whole genomes or fractions of genomes may be amplified into colonies for DNA sequencing of known single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP). SNP identification has application in medical genetic research to identify genetic risk factors associated with diseases. SNP genotyping will also have diagnostic applications in pharmaco-genomics for the identification and treatment of patients with specific medications.

For use of the present invention in genetic diversity profiling, populations of for example organisms or cells or tissues can be identified by the amplification of the sample DNA into colonies, followed by the DNA sequencing of the specific "tags" for each individual genetic entity. In this way, the genetic diversity of the sample can be defined by counting the number of tags from each individual entity.

For use of the present invention in gene expression monitoring, the expressed mRNA molecules of a tissue or organism under investigation are converted into cDNA molecules which are amplified into sets of colonies for DNA sequencing. The frequency of colonies coding for a given mRNA is proportional to the frequency of the mRNA molecules present in the starting tissue. Applications of gene expression monitoring are in bio-medical research.

A whole genome slide, where the entire genome of a living organism is represented in a number of DNA colonies numerous enough to comprise all the sequences of that genome may be prepared using the methods of the invention. The genome slide is the genetic card of any living organism. Genetic cards have applications in medical research and genetic identification of living organisms of industrial value.

The present invention may also be used to carry out

whole genome sequencing where the entire genome of a living organism is amplified as sets of colonies for extensive DNA sequencing. Whole genome sequencing allows for example, 1) a precise identification of the genetic strain of any living organism; 2) to discover novel genes encoded within the genome and 3) to discover novel genetic polymorphisms.

The applications of the present invention are not limited to an analysis of nucleic acid samples from a single organism/patient. For example, nucleic acid tags can be incorporated into the nucleic acid templates and amplified, and different nucleic acid tags can be used for each organism/patient. Thus, when the sequence of the amplified nucleic acid is determined, the sequence of the tag may also be determined and the origin of the sample identified.

Thus, a further aspect of the invention provides the use of the methods of the invention, or the nucleic acid colonies of the invention, or the plurality of nucleic acid templates of the invention, or the solid supports of the invention, for providing nucleic acid molecules for sequencing and re-sequencing, gene expression monitoring, genetic diversity profiling, diagnosis, screening, whole genome sequencing, whole genome polymorphism discovery and scoring and the preparation of whole genome slides (ie. the whole genome of an individual on one support), or any other applications involving the amplification of nucleic acids or the sequencing thereof.

A yet further aspect of the invention provides a kit for use in sequencing, re-sequencing, gene expression monitoring, genetic diversity profiling, diagnosis, screening, whole genome sequencing, whole genome polymorphism discovery and scoring, or any other applications involving the amplification of nucleic acids or the sequencing thereof. This kit comprises a plurality of nucleic acid templates and colony primers

of the invention bound to a solid support, as outlined above.

The invention will now be described in more detail in the following non-limiting Examples with reference to the following drawings in which:

Figure 1: shows a schematic representation of a method of nucleic acid colony generation according to an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2: Schematic representation of template preparation and subsequent attachment to the solid surface. In Figure 2a the preparation of Templates A, B and B' containing colony primer sequences is shown. The 3.2 Kb template is generated from genomic DNA using PCR primers TP1 and TP2. Templates A (854 bp) and B (927 bp) are generated using PCR primers TPA1/TPA2 or TPB1/TPB2, respectively. The TPA1 and TPB1 oligonucleotides are modified at their 5'-termini with either a phosphate or thiol group for subsequent chemical attachment (*). Note that the templates obtained contain sequences corresponding to colony primers CP1 and/or CP2. The 11 exons of the gene are reported as "E1 to E11". In Figure 2b the chemical attachment of colony primers and templates to glass surface is shown. Derivatization by ATS (aminopropyl-triethoxysilane) is exemplified.

Figure 3: DNA colonies generated from a colony primer. It shows the number of colonies observed per 20X field as a function of the concentration of template bound to the well. The lowest concentration of detectable template corresponds to 10^{-13} M.

Figure 4: Representation of discrimination between colonies originated from two different templates. Figure 4a shows the images of colonies made from both templates and negative controls. Figure 4b shows the colonies from both templates at the same position in the same well visualised with two different colours and negative controls. Figure 4c shows the coordinates of

both colony types in a sub-section of a microscopy field. Figure 4c demonstrates that colonies from different templates do not coincide.

Figure 5: Reaction schemes of the template or
5 oligonucleotide attachment on glass. Step A is the derivatization of the surface: glass slide are treated with acidic solution to enhance free hydroxyl group on the surface. The pretreated slides are immersed into a solution of aminosilane. ATS: Aminopropyl
10 triethoxysilane. Step B: B1 or B2 is the functionalization of glass surface with cross-linkers followed by oligonucleotide attachment. Amino group reacts with a cross linking agent via an amide bond: step B1; s-MBS (sulfo m-maleimidobenzoyl-N-hydroxy-succinimide ester) step B2; s-SIAB (sulfo
15 N-succinimidyl[4-iodoacetyl] aminobenzoate). The oligonucleotides (5'end thiol modified oligonucleotide) are attached to the surface via formation of a covalent bound between the thiol and the double bond of the
20 maleimide. Phosphate buffered saline: (PBS, 0.1 M NaH_2PO_4 , pH:6.5, 0.15 M NaCl). B3: Attachment of oligonucleotides using EDC and Imidazole. 5'end phosphate of the modified oligonucleotides reacts with imidazole in the presence of EDC to give 5'-phosphor-
25 imidazolide derivatives (not shown). The derivatives form a phosphoramidate bond with amino groups of the derivatized glass surface. EDC: 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethyl-amonipropyl)-carbodiimide hydrochloride.

Figure 6: it shows the number of colonies observed
30 per 20X field as a function of the concentration of template bound to the well. DNA template were bound at different concentration either via the mediated coupling reagent (EDC) on amino derivatized glass surface (A) or on s-MBS functionalized glass surface (B). Double
35 strand DNA colonies were submitted to restriction enzyme and the recovered single strands hybridized with a complementary oligonucleotide, cy5 fluorescently

labeled.

Figure 7: shows an example of in situ sequencing from DNA colonies generated on glass. Figure 7A shows the result after incubation with Cy5TM-dCTP on a sample that has not been incubated with primer p181. One will appreciate only 5 blurry spots can be observed, indicating that no dramatic spurious effect is taking place (such as Cy5TM-dCTP aggregate precipitation, adsorption or simply non specific incorporation to the DNA in the colonies or on the surface). Figure 7B shows the result after incubation with Cy5TM-dUTP on a sample that has been incubated with primer p181. One will appreciate that no fluorescent spot can be observed, indicating that the incorporation of a fluorescent base cannot take place in detectable amounts when the nucleotide proposed for incorporation does not correspond to the sequence of the template following the hybridized primer. Figure 7C shows the result after incubation with Cy5TM-dCTP on a sample that has been incubated with primer p181. One will appreciate that many fluorescent spots can be observed, indicating that the incorporation of a fluorescent base can indeed take place in detectable amounts when the nucleotide proposed for incorporation does correspond to the sequence of the template following the hybridized primer.

Figure 8: shows hybridization of probes to oligonucleotides attached to Nucleolink, before and after PCR cycling. The figure shows R58 hybridization to CP2 (5'-(phosphate)-TTTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG) closed circles, CP8 (5'(amino-hexamethylene)-TTTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG) closed triangles, CP9 (5'(hydroxyl)-TTTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG) diamonds, CP10 (5'(dimethoxytrityl)-TTTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG) open circles and

CP11 (5' (biotin)-TTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG)
open triangles.

EXAMPLES

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EXAMPLE 1: Preparation of DNA templates suitable for the generation of DNA colonies

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DNA colonies have been generated from DNA templates and colony primers. The term "colony primer sequence" as used herein refers to a sequence corresponding to the sequence of a colony primer and is elsewhere sometimes referred to as "oligonucleotide sequence Y" or "oligonucleotide sequence Z".

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The properties of the colony primers have been chosen based on a selection for oligonucleotide primers that show little non-specific nucleotide incorporation in the presence of heat-stable DNA polymerases. The colony primers, CP α (5'-p CACCAACCCAAACCAACCCAAACC) and CP β (5'-p AGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG) have been selected due to their low incorporation of radiolabeled [α^{32} P-dCTP] in the presence of a stable DNA polymerase (AmpliTaq, Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA) in the standard buffer and under thermocycling conditions (94°C for 30 seconds, 65°C for 1 minute, 72°C for 2 minutes, 50 cycles).

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A 3.2 Kb DNA fragment was taken as a model system to demonstrate the feasibility of colony generation using colony primers and DNA templates. The chosen template comprises the human gene for the receptor for advanced glycosylation end-products (HUMOXRAGE, GenBank Acc. No. D28769). The RAGE-specific primers are depicted in Table 1. The 3.2 Kb template was generated by PCR amplification from 0.1 μ g human genomic DNA with 1 μ M primers TP1 and TP2 with 1 unit of DNA polymerase (AmpliTaq, Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA) in the

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standard buffer and under thermocycling conditions (94°C for 30 seconds, 65°C for 1 minute, 72°C for 5 minutes, 40 cycles). This 3.2 Kb DNA fragment was used as a template for secondary PCR to generate two shorter templates for colony generation (Templates A and B). The primers used to generate the shorter templates contain both sequences specific to the template and sequences of colony primers CP1 and CP2 to amplify the DNA on the solid surface. In general, the PCR primer used to generate a DNA template is modified at the 5'-terminus with either a phosphate or thiol moiety. Thus after the PCR amplification, DNA fragments are generated which contain the colony primer sequences at one or both termini adjoining the RAGE DNA fragment of interest (see Figure 2a).

Template A (double stranded template containing the colony primer sequence, CP β at both termini) was generated with 0.1 ng of the 3.2 Kb template with 1 μ M primers TPA1 and 1 μ M TPA2 with 1 unit of DNA polymerase (AmpliTaq, Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA) in the standard buffer and under thermocycling conditions (94°C for 30 seconds, 65°C for 1 minute, 72°C for 1 minutes, 30 cycles). The products were then purified over Qiagen Qia-quick columns (Qiagen GmbH, Hilden, Germany).

Template B (double stranded template which contains colony primer sequences corresponding to CP β) was generated with 0.1 ng of the 3.2 Kb template with 1 μ M primers TPB1 and 1 μ M TPB2 with 1 unit of DNA polymerase (AmpliTaq, Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA) in the standard buffer and under thermocycling conditions (94°C for 30 seconds, 65°C for 1 minute, 72°C for 1 minutes, 30 cycles). The products were then purified over Qiagen Qia-quick columns (Qiagen GmbH, Hilden, Germany).

Template B' (double stranded template containing colony

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- primer sequences corresponding to CP α and CP β at either end) was generated with 0.1 ng of the 3.2 Kb template with 1 μ M primers TPB3 and 1 μ M TPB4 with 1 unit of (AmpliTaq, Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA) in the standard buffer and under thermocycling conditions (94°C for 30 seconds, 65°C for 1 minute, 72°C for 1 minutes, 30 cycles). The products were then purified over Qiagen Qia-quick columns (Qiagen GmbH, Hilden, Germany).
- 10 All the specific oligonucleotides employed for the DNA templates preparation and for the DNA colony generation have been reported in the Table 1 together with any chemical modification.
- 15 A general scheme showing the chemical attachment of colony primers and templates to the glass surface is reported in Figure 2b, where the derivatization by ATS (aminopropyltriethoxysilane) is reported, as a non-limitative example.

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TABLE 1

List of oligonucleotides used for templates preparation and colonies generation:

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Name	DNA sequence	Coordinates (orientation)	Oligonucleotide Modification	Use
TP1	GAGGCCAGAACAGT TCAAGG	9810 (R)		Template 3.2 Kb
TP2	CCTGTGACAAGACG ACTGAA	6550 (F)		Template 3.2 Kb
CP1	TTTTTTTTTTCACC AACCCAAACCAACC CAAACC	None	5'P	Generate colonies
CP2	TTTTTTTTTTAGAA GGAGAAGGAAAGGG AAAGGG	None	5'P	Generate colonies
CP3	TTTTTTTTTTCACC AACCCAAACCAACC CAAACC	None	5'SH	Generate colonies
CP4	TTTTTTTTTTAGAA GGAGAAGGAAAGGG AAAGGG	None	5'SH	Generate colonies
CP5	AGAAGGAGAAGGAA AGGGAAAGGGTTTT TTTTTTTTTTTTTNN	None	5'P	Generate colonies
CP6	AGAAGGAGAAGGAA AGGGAAAGGGGG	None	5'P	Generate colonies
CP7	TTTTTTTTTTCACC AACCCAAACCAACC CAAACC	None	5' (NH ₂)	Generate colonies
CP8	TTTTTTTTTTAGAA GGAGAAGGAAAGGG AAAGGG	None	5' (NH ₂)	Generate colonies
CP9	TTTTTTTTTTAGAA GGAGAAGGAAAGGG AAAGGG	None	5' (OH)	Control oligo
CP10	TTTTTTTTTTAGAA GGAGAAGGAAAGGG AAAGGG	None	5' (DMT)	Control oligo
CP11	TTTTTTTTTTAGAA GGAGAAGGAAAGGG AAAGGG	None	5' (biotin)	Control oligo

TPA1	AGAAGGAGAAGGAA AGGGAAAGGGCCTG TGACAAGACGACTG AA	6550 (F)	5'P	Template A
TPA2	TTTTTTTTTTTAGAA GGAGAAGGAAAGGG AAAGGGGCGGCCGC TGAGGCCAGTGGAA GTCAGA	7403 (R)	5'P	Template A
<u>TPB3</u>	TTTTTTTTTTCACC AACCCAAACCAACC CAAACCGAGCTCAG GCTGAGGCAGGAGA ATTG	9049 (F)	None	Template B'
TPB1	AGAAGGAGAAGGAA AGGGAAAGGGGAGC TGAGGAGGAAGAGA GG	9265 (F)	None	Template B
TPB2	AGAAGGAGAAGGAA AGGGAAAGGGGCGG CCGCTCGCCTGTT CTGGAAGACA	8411 (R)	5'P	Template B
TPB4	AGAAGGAGAAGGAA AGGGAAAGGGGCGG CCGCTCGCCTGTT CTGGAAGACA	9265 (R)	5'SH	Template B'

Coordinate from HUMOXRAGE gene Accession number D28769
(R) means "reverse" and (F) means "forward"

EXAMPLE 1a: Preparation of a random DNA template flanked by a degenerate primer

A 3.2 Kb DNA fragment was taken as a model system to demonstrate the feasibility of colony generation from random primer PCR amplification. This strategy can be applied to sequencing of DNA fragments of approximately 100 Kb in length and, by combination of fragments to whole genomes. A fragment of DNA of 3.2 Kb was generated by PCR from human genomic DNA using PCR primers; TP1 5'-pGAGGCCAGAACAGTTCAAGG and TP2 5'-pCCTGTGACAAGACGACTGAA as described in example 1. The 3.2 Kb fragment was cut in smaller fragments by a combination of restriction enzymes (EcoR1 and HhaI

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yielding 4 fragments of roughly 800 bp). The cut or uncut fragment DNAs were then mixed with the degenerate primer, p252 (5'-P TTTTTTTTTTISISISISIS, where I stands for inosine (which pairs with A, T and C) and S stands for G or C) and covalently coupled to the Nucleolink wells (Nunc, Denmark). The tubes were then subjected to random solid phase PCR amplification and visualized by hybridisation with labeled DNA probes, as will be described in Example 2a.

EXAMPLE 2: Covalent binding of DNA templates and colony primers on solid support (plastic) and colony formation with a colony primer

Covalent binding of template and colony primer to the solid support (plastic)

A colony primer (CP2, 5'-TTTTTTTTTTAGGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG), phosphorylated at its 5' terminus (Microsynth GmbH, Switzerland), was attached onto Nucleolink plastic microtitre wells (Nunc, Denmark) in the presence of varying doses of Template A (prepared as described in example 1). 8 wells were set up in duplicate with seven 1/10 dilutions of template with CP2, starting with the highest concentration of 1 nM.

Microtitre wells, to which CP2 colony primer and the template are covalently bound were prepared as follows. In each Nucleolink well, 30 μ l of a 1 μ M solution of the colony primer with varying concentrations of template diluted down from 1 nM in 10 mM 1-methyl-imidazole (pH 7.0) (Sigma Chemicals) was added. To each well, 10 μ l of 40 mM 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide (pH 7.0) (Sigma Chemicals) in 10 mM 1-methyl-imidazole, was added to the solution of colony primer and template. The wells were then sealed and incubated at 50°C overnight. After the incubation, wells were rinsed

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twice with 200 μ l of RS (0.4 N NaOH, 0.25% Tween 20),
incubated 15 minutes with 200 μ l RS, washed twice with
200 μ l RS and twice with 200 μ l TNT (100 mM TrisHCl pH
7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Tween 20). Tubes were dried at
5 50°C and were stored in a sealed plastic bag at 4°C.

Colony generation

Colony growing was initiated in each well with 20 μ l of
PCR mix; the four dNTPs (0.2 mM), 0.1% BSA (bovine serum
10 albumin), 0.1% Tween 20, 8% DMSO (dimethylsulfoxide,
Fluka, Switzerland), 1X PCR buffer and 0.025 units/ μ l of
AmpliTaq DNA polymerase (Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA).
The wells were then placed in the thermocycler and
growing was performed by incubating the sealed wells 5
15 minutes at 94°C and cycling for 50 repetitions the
following conditions: 94°C for 30 seconds, 65°C for 2
minutes, 72°C for 2 minutes. After completion of this
program, the wells were kept at 8°C until further use.
Prior to hybridization wells are filled with 50 μ L TE
20 (10 mM Tris, 1 mM EDTA, pH 7.4) heated at 94°C for 5
minutes and chilled on ice before probe addition at
45°C.

Colonies Visualization

25 Probe: The probe was a DNA fragment of 1405 base pairs
comprising the sequence of the template at their 3' end
(nucleotide positions 8405 to 9259). The DNA probe was
synthesized by PCR using two primers: p47 (5'-
GGCTAGGAGCTGAGGAGGAA), amplifying from base 8405, and
30 TP2, biotinylated at 5' end, amplifying from base 9876
of the antisense strand.

Hybridization and detection: The probe was diluted to 1
nM in "easyhyb" (Boehringer-Mannheim, Germany) and 20 μ L
35 added to each well. The probe and the colonies were
denatured at 94°C for 5 min and then incubated 6 hours
at 50°C. Excess probes was washed at 50°C in 2xSSC with

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0.1% Tween. The DNA probes were bound to avidin coated green fluorescence fluorospheres of a diameter of 0.04 μ (Molecular Probes) in TNT for 1 hour at room temperature. Excess beads were washed with TNT.

5 Colonies were visualized by microscopy and image analysis as described in example 2a. Figure 3 shows the number of colonies observed per 20X field as a function of the concentration of template bound to the well. The lowest concentration of detectable template corresponds to 10^{-13} M.

Example 2a: Covalent binding of DNA templates and colony primers on solid support (plastic) and colony formation with a degenerate primer

15 Covalent binding of template and colony primer to the solid support (plastic)

Microtitre wells with p252 and template DNA fragments were prepared as follows:

20 In each Nucleolink well, 30 μ l of a 1 μ M solution of the colony primer p252 with varying concentrations of template diluted down from 0.5 nM in 10 mM 1-methyl-imidazole (pH 7.0) (Sigma Chemicals) was added. To each well, 10 μ l of 40 mM 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-carbodiimide (pH 7.0) (Sigma Chemicals) in 10 mM 1-methyl-imidazole, was added to the solution of colony primer and template. The wells were then sealed and incubated at 50°C overnight. After the incubation, wells were rinsed twice with 200 μ l of RS (0.4N NaOH, 0.25% Tween 20), incubated 15 minutes with 200 μ l RS, washed twice with 200 μ l RS and twice with 200 μ l TNT (100mM TrisHCl pH7.5, 150mM NaCl, 0.1% Tween 20). Tubes were dried at 50°C and were stored in a sealed plastic bag at 4°C.

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Colony generation

DNA colony generation was performed with a modified protocol to allow random priming in each well with 20 μ l of PCR mix; the four dNTPs (0.2 mM each), 0.1% BSA, 0.1% Tween 20, 8% DMSO (dimethylsulfoxide, Fluka, Switzerland), 1X PCR buffer and 0.025 units/ μ l of AmpliTaq DNA polymerase (Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA). The wells were then placed in the thermocycler and amplification was performed by incubating the sealed wells 5 minutes at 94°C and cycling for 50 repetitions the following conditions: 94°C for 30 seconds, 65°C for 2 minutes, 72°C for 2 minutes. After completion of this program, the wells were kept at 8°C until further use. Prior to hybridization wells are filled with 50 μ L TE (10 mM Tris 1 mM EDTA pH 7.4) heated at 94°C for 5 minutes and chilled on ice before probe addition at 45°C.

Colonies Visualization

Probes: Two DNA fragments of 546 and 1405 base pairs comprising the sequences of either extremities of the original template were amplified by PCR. The antisense strand of the probe was labeled with biotin, through the use of a 5'-biotinylated PCR primer. The base pair coordinates of the probes were 6550 to 7113 and 6734 to 9805.

Hybridization and detection: The probes were diluted to 1 nM in "easyhyb" (Boehringer-Mannheim, Germany) and 20 μ L added to each well. The probe and the colonies were denatured at 94°C for 5 min and then incubated 6 hours at 50°C. Excess probes was washed at 50°C in 2xSSC with 0.1% tween. The DNA probes were bound to avidin coated green fluorescence fluorospheres of a diameter of 40 nanometers (Molecular Probes, Portland OR) in TNT for 1 hour at room temperature. Excess beads were washed off with TNT. Fluorescence was detected using an inverted

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microscope (using the 20x/0.400 LD Achroplan objective, on the Axiovert S100TV, with an arc mercury lamp HBO 100W/2, Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) coupled to a 768(H)x512(V)pixel-CCD camera (Princeton Instruments Inc. Trenton, NJ, USA). Exposure were 20 seconds through filter sets XF22 (Ex: 485DF22, Dichroic: 505DRLPO2 Em: 530DF30) and XF47 (Ex: 640DF20, Dichroic: 670DRLPO2 Em: 682DF22) from Omega Optical (Brattleboro VT) for FITC and Cy5 respectively. Data were analyzed using Winview software (Princeton Instruments Inc., Trenton NJ, USA). The numbers of colonies per field were counted in duplicate wells with image analysis software developed in house.

EXAMPLE 3: Sequence discrimination in different colonies originated from varying ratios of 2 different covalently bound templates and a colony primer

Covalent binding of templates and colony primer to the solid support (plastic)

A colony primer (CP2: 5'pTTTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG), phosphorylated at its 5' termini (Microsynth GmbH, Switzerland), was grafted onto Nucleolink plastic microtitre wells (Nunc, Denmark) in the presence of varying doses of the two templates A and B (prepared as described in example 1). Series of 8 wells were set up in triplicate with seven 1/10 dilutions of both templates starting with the highest concentration of 1 nM. Template dilutions are set up in opposite directions such that the highest concentration of one template coincides with the lowest of the other.

Microtitre wells, to which CP2 primer and both templates are covalently bound were prepared as follows. In each Nucleolink well, 30 μ l of a 1 μ M solution of the CP2 primer with varying concentrations of both templates

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diluted down from 1 nM in 10 mM 1-methyl-imidazole (pH 7.0) (Sigma Chemicals) were added. To each well, 10 μ l of 40 mM 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide (pH 7.0) (Sigma Chemicals) in 10 mM 1-methyl-imidazole (pH 7.0), was added to the solution of colony primer and templates. The wells were then sealed and incubated at 50°C for 4 hours. After the incubation, the wells were rinsed three times with 50 μ l of RS (0.4 N NaOH, 0.25% Tween 20), incubated 15 minutes with 50 μ l RS, washed three times with 50 μ l RS and three times with 50 μ l TNT (100 mM TrisHCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Tween 20). Tubes were stored in TNT at 4°C.

Colonies generation

Colony growing was initiated in each well with 20 μ l of PCR mix; the four dNTPs (0.2 mM), 0.1% BSA, 0.1% Tween 20, 8% DMSO (dimethylsulfoxide, Fluka, Switzerland), 1X PCR buffer and 0.025 units/ μ l of AmpliTaq DNA polymerase (Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA).

The wells were then placed in the thermocycler and growing was performed by incubating the sealed wells 5 minutes at 94°C and cycling for 50 repetitions the following conditions: 94°C for 30 seconds, 65°C for 5 minutes, 72°C for 5 minutes. After completion of this program, the wells were kept at 8°C until further use. Prior to hybridization wells are filled with 50 μ l TE (10 mM Tris, 1 mM EDTA, pH 7.4) heated at 94°C for 5 minutes and chilled on ice before probe addition at 50°C.

Colonies visualization

Probe: Two DNA fragments of 546 and 1405 base pairs corresponding to the sequences of the 3.2 Kb DNA fragment at the 5'- and 3'- termini were amplified by PCR using one biotinylated primer (see example 2). The two probes were denatured by heating at 94°C for 5

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minutes, quick-chilled into 1 M NaCl, 10 mM Tris pH 7.4 and allowed to bind to Streptavidin coated fluorospheres of diameter 0.04 μ m labeled with different colors for 2 hours at 4°C. The probes bound to bead
5 were diluted 20 fold in "easyhyb" solution prewarmed to 50°C. 20 μ l of probes was added to each well containing denatured colonies.

Hybridization and detection: The hybridization was
10 carried out at 50°C for 5 hours. Excess probes was washed at 50°C in 2xSSC with 0.1% SDS. Colonies were visualized by microscopy with a 20X objective, 20 second exposure and image analysis as described in example 2a. Figure 4a shows the images of colonies made from both
15 templates and negative controls. Figure 4b shows the colonies from both templates at the same position in the same well visualised with two different colours and negative controls. Figure 4c shows the coordinates of both colony types in a sub-section of a microscopy
20 field. Figure 4c demonstrates that colonies from different templates do not coincide.

EXAMPLE 4: Covalent binding of DNA templates and oligonucleotides on glass solid supports

25 Aminosilane-derivatized glass slides have been used as solid support to covalently attach thiol-modified oligonucleotides probes using hetero-bifunctional cross-linkers. The reagents selected have thiol-
30 reactive (maleimide) and amino-reactive groups (succinimidyl ester). Oligonucleotide attachment yields and stability of the immobilized molecules will be strongly dependent on the cross-linker stability towards the conditions of the different treatments performed.
35 The reaction schemes of the DNA templates or oligonucleotides attachment on glass are described in Figure 5.

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The storage stability of glass slides prepared with the cross-linkers s-MBS and s-SIAB and its thermal stability have been evaluated. An important factor affecting the extent of hybridization of immobilized oligonucleotide probes is the density of attached probes (Beattie et al., 1995; Joss et al., 1997). We have studied this effect by varying the concentration of oligonucleotides during the immobilization and assaying the density of attached oligos by hybridization.

Materials and methods

Microscope glass slides acid pre-treatment - Microscope glass slides (Knittel, Merck ABS) were soaked in basic Helmanex solution during 1 hour (HelmanexII^R 0.25%, 1N NaOH). The slides were rinsed with water, immersed overnight in 1N HCl, rinsed again in water and treated 1 hour in sulfuric acid solution (H₂SO₄/H₂O, 1/1, v/v, with a small amount of fresh ammonium persulfate added). The slides were rinsed in water, in ethanol and finally with pure acetone. Glass slides are dried and stored under vacuum for further use.

Silanization of the surface - The pre-treated slides were immersed into a 5% solution of ATS (aminopropyltriethoxysilane, Aldrich) in acetone. Silanization was carried out at room temperature for 2 hours. After three washes in acetone (5 min/wash) the slides were rinsed once with ethanol, dried and stored under vacuum.

Cross-linker attachment - Cross-linkers, s-MBS and s-SIAB (respectively sulfo m-maleimidobenzoyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester, sulfo N-succinimidyl[4-iodoacetyl] aminobenzoate, Pierce, Rockford IL), are prepared as 20 mM solutions in PBS (phosphate-buffered saline, 0.1 M NaH₂PO₄, pH 7.2, 0.15 M NaCl). Silanized

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glass slides, on which 80 μ L of cross-linker solution was applied, were covered by a cleaned micro cover glass and reacted for 5 hours at 20°C. The glass slides were rinsed in PBS, briefly immersed in water and rinsed in ethanol. Slides were then dried and stored under vacuum in the dark for further use.

Oligonucleotide Attachment - Oligonucleotides were synthesized with 5' modifications of a thiol (CP3 and CP4 Eurogentec, Brussels) or a phosphate moiety (CP1 and CP2, Eurogentec, Brussels) using standard phosphoramidite chemistry.

- 5'- thiol oligonucleotide primers (CP3 and CP4) were prepared as 100 μ M solutions in a saline phosphate buffer (NaPi : 0.1M NaH_2PO_4 , pH: 6.6, 0.15M NaCl) and drops of 1 μ l applied on the functionalized glass slide (functionalized with cross-linker) for 5 hours at room temperature. Glass slides were kept under a saturated wet atmosphere to avoid evaporation. Glass slides were washed on a shaker in NaPi buffer. For thermal stability study glass slides were immersed 2 times in Tris buffer (10 mM, pH 8) for 5 min at 100°C and directly immersed in 5XSSC (0.75 M NaCl, 0.075 M NaCitrate pH 7) at 4°C for 5 min. Slides were stored in 5XSSC at 4°C for further use.

- 5'- phosphate oligonucleotides primers (CP1 and CP2) were applied (1 μ l drops) for 5 hours at room temperature to amino-derivatized glass as 1 μ M solution in 10 mM 1-methyl-imidazole (pH 7.0) (Sigma Chemicals) containing 40 mM of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylamino-propyl) carbodiimide (EDC, Pierce, Rockford IL). The slides were washed 2 times at 100°C in Tris buffer (10 mM, pH 8) and directly immersed in 5XSSC at 4°C for 5 min. Slides were stored in 5XSSC at 4°C for further use.

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Oligonucleotide and DNA template attachment

The 5'-thiol oligonucleotide primers (CP3 and CP4), and 5'-thiol template B' were mixed in a saline phosphate buffer (NaPi : 0.1M NaH₂PO₄ pH: 6.6, 0.15M NaCl).

5 Concentration of DNA template varied from 0.001 to 1 μ M and from 0.1 to 100 μ M for primers but were optimized at 1 μ M and 100 μ M respectively for template and primers. The procedure described above for CP3 and CP4 attachment on functionalized glass surface was then followed.

10

The 5'-phosphate oligonucleotide primers (CP1 and CP2), and 5'-phosphate template B were mixed in a 10 mM 1-methyl-imidazole (pH 7.0) (Sigma Chemicals) solution containing 40 mM of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylamino-propyl) carbodiimide (EDC, Pierce, Rockford IL). Concentration of DNA template varied from 0.001 to 10 nM and from 0.1 to 1 μ M for primers, but were eventually optimized at 10 nM and 1 μ M respectively for template and primers. The procedure described above for CP1 and CP2 attachment on amino-derivatized glass surface was followed.

20

Hybridization with fluorescent probes- Oligonucleotide probes, fluorescently labeled with Cy5 or FITC at their 5'end, were synthesized by Eurogentec (Brussels). To prevent non-specific hybridization, glass slides were incubated with a blocking solution (5xSSC, Tween 0.1%, BSA 0.1%) for 1 hour and washed on a shaker in 5xSSC (2 times, 5 min). Oligonucleotide probes were diluted at 0.5 μ M in 5xSSC, Tween 0.1% and applied on the glass surface for 2 hours at room temperature. Glass slides were rinsed on a shaker at 37°C, once in 5xSSC for 5 min, and twice in 2xSSC containing 0.1% SDS for 5 minutes.

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35 Hybridization with radiolabeled probes- Radiolabeled oligonucleotides complementary to covalently linked oligonucleotides were used as hybridization probes in

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order to quantify hybridization yields.

Oligonucleotides were enzymatically labeled at their 5' end terminus with [γ -³²P]dATP (Amersham, UK) using the bacteriophage T4 polynucleotide kinase (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA). Excess [γ -³²P]dATP was removed with a Chroma Spin column TE-10 (Clontech, Palo Alto CA). Radiolabeled oligonucleotides (0.5 μ M in 5xSSC, Tween 0.1%) were then applied onto derivatized slides for 2 hours at room temperature. Glass slides were rinsed on a shaker once in 5xSSC for 5 min and twice in 2xSSC, SDS 0.1% for 5 minutes at 37°C. After hybridization the specific activity was determined by scintillation counting.

Microscope observation - Glass slides were overlaid with 5xSSC solution and a micro cover glass. Fluorescence was detected using an inverted microscope model Axiovert S100TV, with an arc mercury lamp HBO 100W/2 (Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) coupled to a CCD camera equipped with a CCD array Kodak with a format 768(H)x512(V) pixels; 6.91x4.6 mm overall, pixel size 9x9 μ m² (Princeton Instruments Inc. Trenton, NJ, USA). Exposition times were between 1 and 50 seconds using the objective LD Achroplan 20x/0.400 (Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) and filter sets XF22 (Ex: 485DF22, Dichroic: 505DRLPO2 Em: 530DF30) and XF47 (Ex: 640DF20, Dichroic: 670DRLPO2 Em: 682DF22) from Omega Optical (Brattleboro VT) for FITC and Cy5 fluorophores respectively. Data were analyzed using Winwiew software (Princeton Instruments Inc., Trenton NJ, USA).

Results

Evaluation of storage stability attachment and thermal stability

35

We evaluated the storage stability of glass plates prepared with s-MBS and s-SIAB. Since these reagents

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are sensitive towards hydrolysis, oligonucleotide attachment yields will be dependent on their stability. Amino-derivatized glass plates were functionalized with freshly prepared crosslinking reagents, s-MBS and s-SIAB. The functionalized slides were stored after cross-linking attachment for 10 days in a dessicator under vacuum in the dark at room temperature. After this time, stored slides ($t=10$ days) and freshly reacted slides with the cross-linker reagents ($t = 0$) were assayed. The results obtained after reaction of a thiol-oligonucleotide and hybridization of a complementary fluorescent probe were compared for both chemistries at $t=0$ and time= 10 days.

Once immobilized, the s-SIAB-functionalized slides are fully stable after 10 days storage as evidenced by the same yields of hybridization obtained at $t=0$ and $t=10$ days. In contrast, coupled s-MBS to glass was found to be less stable with a 30% loss in yield of oligonucleotide attachment and hybridization after 10 days storage. In conclusion, s-SIAB functionalized slides are preferred as they can be prepared in advance and stored dry under vacuum in the dark for at least ten days without any reduction in probe attachment yield.

To evaluate the thermal stability of oligonucleotides attached to glass, the slides were subjected to two 5-min treatments at 100°C in 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8. The remaining oligonucleotide still immobilized after washes was assayed by hybridization with a fluorescently labeled complementary oligonucleotide. About 14% of the molecules attached are released for s-SIAB glass slides and 17% for s-MBS glass slides after the first 5 minutes wash, but no further release was detected in the second wash for both chemistries (TABLE 1A). These results are encouraging compared to those obtained by Chrissey et al. 1996, where a release of more than 62% of

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oligonucleotides attached on fused silica slides via the crosslinker SMPB (Succinimidyl 4-[p-maleimidophenyl] butyrate) was measured after a 10 min treatment in PBS at 80°C.

5

TABLE 1A

10	Hybridisation results (arbitrary units, normalised to 100%)		
	Freshly attached	After 5 min wash at 100°C	After 2x5 min wash at 100°C
	s-MBS	80±6	69±4
	s-SIAB	100±9	84±8

Table 1A : Thermal stability study

15 Oligonucleotides were attached to glass slides
functionalized with either s-MBS or s-SIAB. Attached
oligonucleotides were assayed by hybridization with a
fluorescently-labeled complementary oligonucleotide.
20 Fluorescence signal is normalized at 100 for the highest
signal obtained. Averaged values of triplicate analyses
are reported.

Hybridization as a function of probe attachment

25 We have studied the extent of hybridization of
covalently bound oligonucleotide probes as a function of
the surface coverage of attached oligonucleotides using
the s-MBS, s-SIAB cross-linkers and EDC-mediated
reactions. The concentration of oligonucleotides
applied for immobilization was 1 µM for EDC and has been
30 varied between 1 and 800 µM for crosslinkers, the
surface density was assayed by hybridization with
³²P-labeled probes. The optimal concentration for primer
attachment using the heterobifunctional cross-linkers
was 500 µM which equates with a surface density of
35 hybridized molecules of 60 fmol/mm² for s-MBS and 270

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fmol/mm² for s-SIAB. Similar coverage density as s-MBS was obtained using EDC/Imidazole-mediated attachment of 5'-phosphate oligonucleotides to aminosilanised glass. However, only 1 μ M solutions of oligonucleotide were necessary to attain the same attachment yield, this represents a 500-fold excess of oligonucleotide to be attached for the s-MBS chemistry compared to the EDC/imidazole coupling strategy (Table 1B).

TABLE 1B

Conc. of oligonucleotide used for attachment (μ M)	Oligo hybridized (fmol/mm ²)		
	s-MBS	s-SIAB	EDC
1	NT	NT	50
100	10	100	NT
500	60	270	NT

Table 1B : Hybridization as a function of probe attachment

Oligonucleotides were attached to glass slides functionalized with either s-MBS or s-SIAB or via mediated activating reagent EDC. Attached oligonucleotides were assayed by hybridization with a radiolabeled complementary oligonucleotide. The specific activity and therefore the density of hybridized molecules were determined by scintillation liquid. NT : not tested

The 60 fmol/cm² surface density corresponds to an average molecular spacing between bound oligonucleotides of 8 nm. According to our results, a coverage density of 30 fmol/mm² (spacing of 20 nm) is sufficient to obtain DNA colonies. This yield can be obtained by immobilizing

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primers at 100 μ M using the heterobifunctional cross-linker s-SIAB or 1 μ M probes using the EDC-mediated approach. The hybridization densities we have obtained are in the range of the highest densities obtained on glass slides of other grafting protocols previously reported (Guo et al-1994, Joss et al-1997, Beattie et al-1995).

DNA colony generation on glass: colonies formation is dependent on the length, the concentration of template and the concentration of primers

Theoretically, DNA colony formation requires an appropriate density of primers attached on the surface corresponding to an appropriate length of the DNA template. For optimal DNA colony generation, it is important to define the range of densities of the bound primers and templates, as well as the stoichiometric ratio between template and primer.

20

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Glass slide preparation

Glass slides were derivatized and functionalized as described above (Materials and methods). DNA colony primers were CP1 and CP2. The colony templates were prepared as described in example 1 for template B', but using primers TPB3 and TPB2. The modified colony primers and templates were applied on glass surface at varying concentrations of both colony primer and colony template.

30

Generation of colonies

Glass slides stored in 5XSSC were washed in micro-filtered water to removed salts. Colony growing was initiated on glass surface with a PCR mix; the four dNTP (0.2 mM), 0.1% BSA, 0.1% Tween 20, 1X PCR buffer

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- 65 -

and 0.05 U/ μ l of AmpliTaq DNA polymerase (Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA). The PCR mix is placed in a frame seal chamber (MJ Research, Watertown, MA). The slides were placed in the thermocycler (The DNA Engine, MJ Research
5 Watertown, MA) and thermocycling was as carried out as follows : step 1 at 94°C for 1 min, step 2 at 65°C for 3 minutes, step 3 at 74°C for 6 min and this program is repeated 50 times. After completion of this program the slides are kept at 6°C until further use.

10

Digestion of double strand DNA colonies

The glass surface containing the DNA was cut with a restriction nuclease by overlaying with the restriction enzyme in a digestion 1X buffer. The reaction was run
15 twice for 1h30 at 37°C. Double strand DNA colonies were denatured by immersing slides 2 times in tris buffer (10 mM, pH 8) at 100°C for 5 min, followed by a rinse in 5XSSC at 4°C. Slides were stored in 5XSSC for further use.

20

Hybridization of one strand DNA colonies

To prevent non-specific hybridization, glass slides were incubated with a blocking solution (5XSSC, 0.1% Tween, 0.1% BSA) for 1 hour and the slides rinsed in 5XSSC (2
25 times, 5min). Fluorescently Cy5 5' end labeled oligonucleotide (Eurogentec, Brussels) were diluted at 0.5 μ M in SSC 5X, Tween 0.1% and applied to the glass surface for at least 2 hours. Glass slides are rinsed on a shaker once in SSC 5X for 5 min and twice in SSC
30 5X, SDS 0.1% 5 minutes at 37°C.

The glass slides were visualized as previously described.

35 We have previously observed that the extent of hybridization is a function of the density of oligonucleotide attachment. A similar study with

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bound DNA templates has shown that colony formation is also a function of the concentration of template attached on glass slide. Depending on the chemistry used for oligonucleotide and template attachment, the optimal concentration of template is 1 μ M for the bi-functional crosslinkers, s-MBS (Figure 6B), and 1 nM for EDC carbodiimide (Figure 6A). Interestingly, a higher concentration of template does not enhance number of colonies for EDC chemistry and a plateau corresponding to a maximal number of colonies seems to be reached.

We have studied colony formation (number) as a function of the concentration of primers, concentration of the DNA template applied on the surface and the length of the DNA template.

We have also evaluated the number of copy of template in each colony. The quantification was based on fluorescence detection with Cy5-, Cy3- or fluorescein-labeled fluorophores supplemented with an anti-bleaching reagent (Prolong, Molecular Probes, Portland OR). The calibration has been done by hybridization experiments on primers attached to the surface as the exact density corresponding has been determined by radioactivity

EXAMPLE 5: colony in-situ DNA sequencing

Glass slides (5mm diameter Verrerie de Carouge, Switzerland) were first placed into a Helmanex 0.2% (in H_2O), NaOH 1N bath for 1 h at room temperature, rinsed with distilled water, rinsed in pure Hexane, rinsed again two times with distilled water and treated with HCl 1M over night at room temperature. Then, they were rinsed two times in distilled water, and treated with H_2SO_4 (50%) + $K_2S_2O_8$ for 1 h at room temperature. They

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were rinsed in distilled water, then two times in Ethanol. Glass slides were derivatized with ATS (as described in example 4).

5 Colony primers CP1
(5'-pTTTTTTTTTTCACCAACCCAAACCAACCCAAACC) and CP2
(5'-pTTTTTTTTTTAGAAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG) which are
5'phosphorylated (Microsynth GmbH, Switzerland) and DNA
template B (prepared as described in example 1) were 5'
10 covalently attached onto 5 mm diameter glass slides
(Verrerie de Carouge, Switzerland) to a final
concentrations of 1 μ M and 10 nM respectively, as
follows: 2 nmoles of each primer were added to 0.2
nmoles of template in 1 ml of solution A (41 μ l of
15 Methylimidazole (Sigma, #M-8878) in 50 ml H₂O, pH
adjusted to 7 with HCl) and then mixed 1:1 with solution
D (0.2 mM EDC in 10 ml of solution A). On both glass
slides sides, 3.5 μ l of the mixture were loaded, and
incubated over night at room temperature. The glass
20 slides were then briefly rinsed with 5xSSC buffer and
placed at 100°C in 10mM Tris buffer pH 8.0 for 2x5'.

Non specific sites on glass were blocked with Bovine
Serum Albumin (BSA, Boehringer Mannheim GmbH, Germany,
25 #238040) at 1 mg/ml in 5xSSC buffer for 1 h at room
temperature and then rinsed with distilled water.

Glass slides were then individually placed onto a
MicroampTM reaction tube (Perkin Elmer) containing 170 μ l
30 of PCR mix, and DNA colonies were then generated using
Taq polymerase (AmpliTaq, PE-Applied Biosystems Inc.,
Foster City CA) with 50 cycles (94C/60", 60C/3', 72C/6')
in a MTC 200 thermo-cycler (MJ Research, Watertown, MA).
Each slide was digested twice using 1.3 units of Pvu II
35 (Stratagene) in NEB 2 buffer (New England Biolabs) for
45 minutes at 37°C. After digestion, the tubes were
placed at 100°C in 10mM Tris buffer pH 8.0 for 2x5',

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then blocked with filtered (Millex GV4, Millipore) 1 mg/ml BSA in 2xSSC buffer for 30' at room temperature and rinsed first in 2xSSC 0.1% SDS buffer then in 5xSSC buffer. Each slide was incubated over night at room temperature with a 5xSSC/0.1% Tween 20 buffer containing 1 μ M of the sequencing primer p181 (CGACAGCCGGAAGGAAGAGGGAGC) overnight at room temperature. Controls without primer were kept in 5xSSC 0.1% Tween 20 buffer. Glass slides were washed 2 times in 5xSSC 0.1% SDS at 37C for 5' and rinsed in 5xSSC. Primer p181 can hybridize to template B' and the sequence following p181 is CAGCT.... In order to facilitate focusing, green fluorescent beads have been adsorbed to the bottom of the well by incubating each well with 20 μ l of a 1/2000 dilution of 200 nm yellow/green fluorescent, streptavidin coated FluoSpheres^(R) (Molecular Probes, Eugene, OR) in 5X SSC for 20" at room temperature.

After hybridization with the primer, 2 μ l of a solution containing 0.1% BSA, 6 mM dithiotreitol (Sigma Chemicals), 5 μ M Cy5TM-dCTP or 5 μ M Cy5TM-dUTP (Amersham, UK) and 1X Sequenase reaction buffer is added to each slide. The addition of the Cy5TM-nucleotide is initiated with the addition of 1.3 unit of T7 SequenaseTM DNA polymerase (Amersham, UK) for two minutes at room temperature. The wells are washed 2 times in 5X SSC/0.1% SDS bath for 15' and rinsed with 5xSSC buffer.

The samples are observed using an inverted microscope (Axiovert S100TV, Carl Zeiss AG, Oberkochen, Germany) equipped with a Micromax 512x768 CCD camera and Winview software (Princeton Instruments, Trenton, NJ). For focusing, a 20X objective and a XF 22 filter set (Omega Optical, Brattleboro, VT) were used, and for observing Cy5TM incorporation on the samples, a 20X objective and a XF47 filter set (Omega Optical) with a 50 second

exposure using a 2x2 pixel binning. The yellow/green FluoSpheres(R) (approximately 100/field of view) do not give a detectable signal using the XF47 filter set and 50 second exposure (data not shown). The photos are generated by the program, Winview (Princeton Instruments).

Figure 7A shows the result after incubation with Cy5TM-dCTP on a sample that has not been incubated with primer p181. One will appreciate only 5 blurry spots can be observed, indicating that no dramatic spurious effect is taking place (such as Cy5TM-dCTP aggregate precipitation, adsorption or simply non specific incorporation to the DNA in the colonies or on the surface). Figure 7B shows the result after incubation with Cy5TM-dUTP on a sample that has been incubated with primer p181. One will appreciate that no fluorescent spot can be observed, indicating that the incorporation of a fluorescent base cannot take place in detectable amounts when the nucleotide proposed for incorporation does not correspond to the sequence of the template following the hybridized primer. Figure 7C shows the result after incubation with Cy5TM-dCTP on a sample that has been incubated with primer p181. One will appreciate that many fluorescent spots can be observed, indicating that the incorporation of a fluorescent base can indeed take place in detectable amounts when the nucleotide proposed for incorporation does correspond to the sequence of the template following the hybridized primer. To summarize, we showed that it is possible to incorporate on a sequence specific manner fluorescent nucleotides into the DNA contained in the colonies and to monitor this incorporation with the apparatus and method described. However, this is only a example. One will appreciate that if desired the incorporation of a fluorescent base could be repeated several times. As this is done on a sequence specific manner, it is thus

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possible to deduce part of the sequence of the DNA contained in the colonies.

EXAMPLE 6: 5' mRNA sequence tag analysis

5 The most accurate way to monitor gene expression in cells or tissues is to reduce the number of steps between the collection of the sample and the scoring of the mRNA. New methods for rapidly isolating mRNA are commercially available. The most efficient methods
10 involve the rapid isolation of the sample and immediate disruption of cells into a solution of guanidinium hydrochloride, which completely disrupts proteins and inactivates RNases. This is followed by the purification of the mRNA from the supernatant of the
15 disrupted cells by oligo-dT affinity chromatography. Finally, 5'-capped mRNA can be specifically targeted and transformed into cDNA using a simple strategy (SMART cDNA synthesis, Clontech, Palo Alto).

20 This method allows the synthesis of cDNA copies of only the translationally active, 5'-capped mRNA. By combining the above rapid methods of mRNA isolation and cDNA preparation with the grafted-template method of DNA colony generation described in the present application,
25 we have an approach for the high-throughput identification of a large number of 5' mRNA sequence tags. The advantage of our invention is the possibility to sequence a large number of cDNA by directly grafting the product of the cDNA synthesis reaction, amplifying
30 the cDNA into thousands of copies, followed by the simultaneous in situ sequencing of the cDNAs.

Materials and methods:

Synthetic oligonucleotides and plasmids -
35 Oligonucleotides were synthesized with 5'-phosphates by Eurogentec or Microsynth. Plasmids containing partial coding and 3'-untranslated sequences of the murine

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potassium channel gene, mSlo, following the T3 RNA polymerase promoter were generated by standard methods.

5 mRNA synthesis - mSlo plasmids were linearized at a single SalI or SacI restriction nuclease site following the poly A⁺ sequence in the plasmid. After treatment of the cut plasmid with proteinase K, linear plasmid DNA was extracted once with phenol/CH₂Cl/isoamyl alcohol and precipitated with ethanol. The DNA precipitate was
10 re-dissolved in H₂O at a concentration of 10 µg/µl. Synthetic mRNA capped with the 5'-methylguanosine were synthesized by the mMessage mMachine in vitro mRNA synthesis kit as per manufacturer instructions (Ambion, Austin TX). Synthetic mRNA was stored at 80°C.

15 Enzymes - Restriction enzymes were obtained from New England Biolabs (Beverly, MA).

20 cDNA synthesis - Synthetic mRNA was mixed with mouse liver poly A⁺ mRNA at different molar ratios (1:1, 1:10, 1:100) and cDNA synthesis on the mixture of synthetic and mouse liver mRNA was performed using the "SMART PCR cDNA synthesis kit" (Clontech, Palo Alto CA) with some minor modifications. In a cDNA reaction, approximately
25 1 µg of the mRNA mixture was mixed with the -primer CP5, having at the 5' -end the sequence of CPβ, (5'p-AGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGGTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTNN). This primer has been used to make the 1st strand cDNA synthesis. For the 2nd strand synthesis, the "SMART"
30 technique has been used. The basis of the SMART synthesis is the property of the Moloney murine viral reverse transcriptase to add three to five deoxycytosine residues at the 3'-termini of first strand cDNA, when the mRNA contains a 5'-methylguanosine-cap (SMART user
35 manual, Clontech, Palo Alto CA). A CP6 primer, which contains the sequence of CPβ plus AAAGGGGG at the 3' end, (5'p-AGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGGGG) has been used for

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- the 2nd strand cDNA synthesis. Buffer and SUPERScript™ II RNase H- reverse transcriptase from Moloney murine leukemia virus (Life Technologies, Ltd.) were used as described in the instructions and the reaction was
- 5 carried out at 42°C for 1 hr. The cDNA was assayed by PCR using the primer p251, which contains a fragment of the CPβ sequence, (5'-GAGAAGGAAAGGAAAGG) with Taq DNA polymerase (Platinum Taq, Life Technologies, Ltd.).
- 10 Preparation of DNA colonies - The 5'p-cDNA was mixed with different concentrations of the solid phase colony primer, CP2 (5'p-TTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGAAAGGG) and chemically bound to Nucleolink PCR tubes (NUNC) following manufacturer instructions. DNA colonies were
- 15 then generated using Taq polymerase (AmpliTaq Gold, PE-Applied Biosystems Inc., Foster City CA) with 30 cycles (94C/30", 65C/1', 72C/ 1.5') in a MTC 200 thermo-cycler (MJ Research, Watertown, MA).
- 20 DNA probes and hybridization - ³²P-biotinylated and ³²P-radiolabelled DNA probes specific for the mSlo DNA sequence were synthesized with a 5'-biotinylated primer and a normal downstream primer by PCR on the template (mSlo plasmid DNA). The probe incorporated α[³²P]-dCTP
- 25 (Amersham, Amersham UK) at a ratio of 300:1 (α[³²P]-dCTP to dCTP) in the PCR reaction, with a final concentration of the four deoxynucleoside triphosphates of 50 μM. The resulting biotinylated and radiolabelled DNA probe was desalted over a Chromaspin-1000 column (Clontech, Palo
- 30 Alto CA). The DNA probes were hybridized to the samples in "easyhyb" buffer (Boehringer-Mannheim, Germany), using the following temperature scheme (in the MTC200 thermocycler): 94°C for 5 minutes, followed by 68 steps of 0.5°C decrease in temperature every 30 seconds (in
- 35 other words, the temperature is decreased down to 60°C in 34 minutes), using sealed wells. The samples are then washed 3 times with 200 μl of TNT at room

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temperature. The wells are then incubated for 30 minutes with 50 μ l TNT containing 0.1 mg/ml BSA (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA). Then the wells are incubated 5 minutes with 15 μ l of solution of red
5 fluorescent, streptavidin-coated, 40 nanometer microspheres (Molecular Probes, Portland, OR). The solution of microspheres is made of 2 μ l of the stock solution of microspheres, which have been sonicated for 5 minutes in a 50 W ultra-sound water-bath (Elgasonic,
10 Bienne, Switzerland), diluted in 1 ml of TNT solution containing 0.1 mg/ml BSA and filtered with Millex GV4 0.22 μ m pore size filter (Millipore, Bedford, MA).
DNA colony visualization - The stained samples are observed using an inverted Axiovert 10 microscope using
15 a 20X objective (Carl Zeiss AG, Oberkochen, Germany) equipped with a Micromax 512x768 CCD camera (Princeton instruments, Trenton, NJ), using a PB546/FT580/LP590 filter set, and 10 seconds of light collection. The files are converted to TIFF format and processed in the
20 suitable software (PhotoPaint, Corel Corp. Ltd, Dublin, Ireland). The processing consisted in inversion and linear contrast enhancement, in order to provide a picture suitable for black and white printout on a laser printer.

25

RESULTS

Synthetic mRNA and cDNA synthesis - Following cDNA
synthesis, the cDNA was checked in a PCR using the p251
30 primer (generated at each end of the first strand cDNA) for the correct lengths of products as assayed by agarose gel electrophoresis. The synthetic mSlo mRNA was diluted into the liver mRNA, which was evidenced by the decreasing intensity of the mSlo-specific band and
35 the increase of a non-specific smear of liver cDNA.

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Detection and quantification of DNA colonies - DNA colonies were assayed using fluorescent imaging CCD microscopy or scintillation counting. The numbers of fluorescently detectable colonies increased as a function of the amount of grafted template, as shown in Figure 6. This increase was mirrored by the amount of ³²P-radiolabel detected.

With radiolabelled probes it is possible to detect mRNA copies at about 1:100. But with fluorescent microscopic CCD imaging technology, one can detect mRNA to a dilution of 1:10000.

EXAMPLE 7 : Covalent binding of primer to the solid support (plastic)

Oligonucleotide primers were attached onto Nucleolink plastic microtitre wells (Nunc, Denmark) in order to determine optimal coupling times and chemistries. Oligonucleotides; CP2 (5'-(phosphate)-TTTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG), CP8 (5'-(amino-hexamethylene)-TTTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG), CP9 (5' (hydroxyl)-TTTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG), CP10 (5'-(dimethoxytrityl)-TTTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG) and CP11 (5' (biotin)-TTTTTTTTTTTAGAAGGAGAAGGAAAGGGAAAGGG), (Microsynth GmbH, Switzerland), were attached to Nucleolink microtitre wells as follows (8 wells each); to each well 20 µl of a solution containing 0.1 µM oligonucleotide, 10mM 1-methyl-imidazole (pH 7.0) (Sigma Chemicals) and 10mM 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide (pH 7.0) (Sigma Chemicals) in 10mM 1-methyl-imidazole. The wells were then sealed and incubated 50°C for varying amounts of time. The coupling reaction was terminated at specific times by rinsing twice with 200 µl of RS (0.4 N NaOH, 0.25% Tween 20) and twice with 200 µl TNT (100mM TrisHCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Tween 20). Tubes were dried at 50°C for

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30' and were stored in a sealed plastic bag at 4°C.

Stability of bound oligonucleotides under PCR Colony
generation conditions

5

Stability was tested under colony growing conditions by adding a PCR mix (20 μ l of four dNTPs (0.2 mM), 0.1% BSA, 0.1% Tween 20, 8% DMSO (dimethylsulfoxide, Fluka, Switzerland), IX PCR buffer). The wells were then placed in the thermocycler and for 33 repetitions under the following conditions: 94°C for 45 seconds, 60°C for 4 minutes, 72°C for 4 minutes. After completion of this program, the wells were rinsed with 5xSSC, 0.1% Tween 20 and kept at 8°C until further use. Prior to hybridization wells are filled with 50 μ l 5xSSC, 0.1% Tween 20 heated at 94°C for 5 minutes and stored at RT. Probe: Oligonucleotide probes, R57 (5'(phosphate)-GTTTGGGTTGGTTTGGGTTGGTG, control probe) and R58 (5'(phosphate)-CCCTTCCCTTTCCTTCTCCTTCT, which is complementary to CP2, CP8, CP9, CP10 and CP11) were enzymatically labeled at their 5' end terminus with [γ -³²P]dATP (Amersham, UK) using the bacteriophage T4 polynucleotide kinase (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA). Excess ³²P dATP was removed with a Chroma Spin column TE-10 (Clontech, Palo Alto CA). Radiolabeled oligonucleotides (0.5 μ M in 5xSSC, 0.1% Tween 20) were then hybridized to the oligonucleotide derivatized Nucleolink wells at 37°C for two hours. The wells were washed 4 times with 5xSSC, 0.1% Tween 20 at room temperature, followed by a wash with 0.5xSSC, 0.1% Tween 20 for 15' at 37°C. Wells were then assayed for bound probe by scintillation counting.

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25
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Results

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There is a marked difference in the rate and specificity of oligonucleotide coupling depending on the nature of

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5'-functional group on the oligonucleotide.

Oligonucleotides carrying the 5'-amino group coupled approximately twice as fast as oligonucleotides functionalized with a 5'-phosphate group (see Table 2 and Figure 8). In addition, the control oligonucleotides functionalized with 5'-hydroxyl, 5'-DMT or 5'-biotin all coupled at rates similar to that of the 5'-phosphate, which questions the 5'-specific nature of the chemical attachment using the 5'-phosphate group.

Table 2

	5'- phosphate	5'- amino	5'- hydroxyl	5'-DMT	5'- biotin
Ka (min ⁻¹)	0.0068	0.0135	0.0063	0.0070	0.0068
Attached oligo- nucleotide (fmol/well)	608	1344	542	602	650
PCR stability (% remaining)	56	69	66	66	62

Claims:

1. A method for amplification of at least one nucleic acid comprising the following steps:-

5 (1) forming at least one nucleic acid template comprising the nucleic acid(s) to be amplified, wherein said nucleic acid(s) contains at the 5' end an oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3' end an oligonucleotide sequence Z and, in addition, the nucleic
10 acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support;

(2) mixing said nucleic acid template(s) with one or more colony primers X, which can hybridize to the oligonucleotide sequence Z and carries at the 5' end a
15 means for attaching the colony primers to a solid support, in the presence of a solid support so that the 5' ends of both the nucleic acid template and the colony primers bind to the solid support;

(3) performing one or more nucleic acid
20 amplification reactions on the bound template(s), so that nucleic acid colonies are generated.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide sequence Z is complementary to
25 oligonucleotide sequence Y and colony primer X is of the same sequence as oligonucleotide sequence Y.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein two
30 different colony primers X are mixed with said template(s) in step (2), and wherein the sequences of colony primers X are such that the oligonucleotide sequence Z can hybridise to one of the colony primers X and the oligonucleotide sequence Y is the same as one of the colony primers X.

35

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the colony primers X comprise a degenerate primer sequence and the

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nucleic acid template(s) do not contain oligonucleotide sequences Y or Z.

5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4
5 comprising the additional step of performing at least
one step of sequence determination of one or more of the
nucleic acid colonies generated.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the sequence
10 determination step(5) involves the incorporation and
detection of labelled oligonucleotides.

7. A method as claimed in claim 5 or 6 wherein the
full or partial sequences of the amplified nucleic acid
15 templates present in more than one nucleic acid colonies
are determined simultaneously.

8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7
20 comprising the additional step of visualising the
colonies generated.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said
visualisation step involves the use of a labelled or
unlabelled nucleic acid probe.

25 10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9,
wherein the means for attaching the nucleic acid
template(s) and the colony primers to the solid support
comprises a means for attaching the nucleic acid
30 sequences covalently to the said support.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said means
for attaching the nucleic acid sequences covalently to
the solid support is a chemically modifiable functional
35 group.

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12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said chemically modifiable functional group is a phosphate group, a carboxylic or aldehyde moiety, a thiol, a hydroxyl, a dimethoxytrityl (DMT), or an amino group.
- 5 13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said chemically modifiable functional group is an amino group.
- 10 14. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein said solid support is selected from the group comprising latex beads, dextran beads, polystyrene, polypropylene surface, polyacrylamide gel, gold surfaces, glass surfaces and silicon wafers.
- 15 15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said solid support is glass.
- 20 16. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 wherein the density of nucleic acid colonies generated is $10,000/\text{mm}^2$ to $100,000/\text{mm}^2$.
- 25 17. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16 wherein the density of colony primers X attached to said solid support is at least $1 \text{ fmol}/\text{mm}^2$.
- 30 18. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein the density of nucleic acid templates is $10,000/\text{mm}^2$ to $100,000/\text{mm}^2$.
- 35 19. A plurality of nucleic acid templates comprising the nucleic acids to be amplified, wherein said nucleic acids contain at their 5' ends an oligonucleotide sequence Y and at the 3' end an oligonucleotide sequence Z and, in addition, the nucleic acid(s) carry at the 5' end a means for attaching the nucleic acid(s) to a solid support.

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20. A plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed in claim 19, wherein said templates are mixed with a plurality of colony primers X.

5 21. A plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20, wherein the oligonucleotide sequence Z is complementary to oligonucleotide sequence Y and colony primer X is of the same sequence as oligonucleotide sequence Y.

10 22. A plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20 wherein two different colony primers X are mixed with said templates, and wherein the sequences of colony primers X are such that the
15 oligonucleotide sequence Z can hybridise to one of the colony primers X and the oligonucleotide sequence Y is the same as one of the colony primers X.

20 23. A plurality of nucleic acid templates as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20 wherein the colony primers X comprise a degenerate primer sequence and the nucleic acid templates do not contain oligonucleotide sequences Y or Z.

25 24. A solid support, to which there is attached a plurality of colony primers X and at least one nucleic acid template, wherein said nucleic acid templates and colony primers are as defined in any one of the previous claims.

30 25. A solid support as claimed in claim 24 wherein a plurality of nucleic acid templates are attached to said solid support.

35 26. A solid support as claimed in claim 24 or 25 wherein the solid support is as defined in claims 14 and 15.

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27. A solid support as claimed in any one of claims 24 to 26 wherein the attachment of nucleic acid templates and colony primers to the solid support is covalent.

5 28. A solid support comprising one or more nucleic acid colonies generated by a method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 18.

10 29. Use of the solid support of any one of claims 24 to 28 in methods of nucleic acid amplification or sequencing.

30. Use as claimed in claim 29 wherein said method is a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18.

15 31. Use of a method of any one of claims 1 to 18, for nucleic acid amplification or sequencing.

20 32. Use of a method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 18 or the nucleic acid colonies generated by said methods, or the plurality of nucleic acid templates of claims 19 to 23, or the solid supports of claims 24 to 28, for providing nucleic acid molecules for sequencing and re-sequencing, gene expression monitoring, genetic
25 diversity profiling, diagnosis, screening, whole genome sequencing, whole genome polymorphism discovery and scoring and the preparation of whole genome slides, or any other applications involving the amplification of nucleic acids or the sequencing thereof.

30 33. A kit for use in nucleic acid amplification or sequencing comprising a plurality of nucleic acid templates and colony primers as defined in any of the preceding claims bound to a solid support.

35 34. A kit as claimed in claim 33 for use in sequencing, re-sequencing, gene expression monitoring, genetic

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diversity profiling, diagnosis, screening, whole genome
sequencing, whole genome polymorphism discovery and
scoring, or any other applications involving the
amplification of nucleic acids or the sequencing
5 thereof.

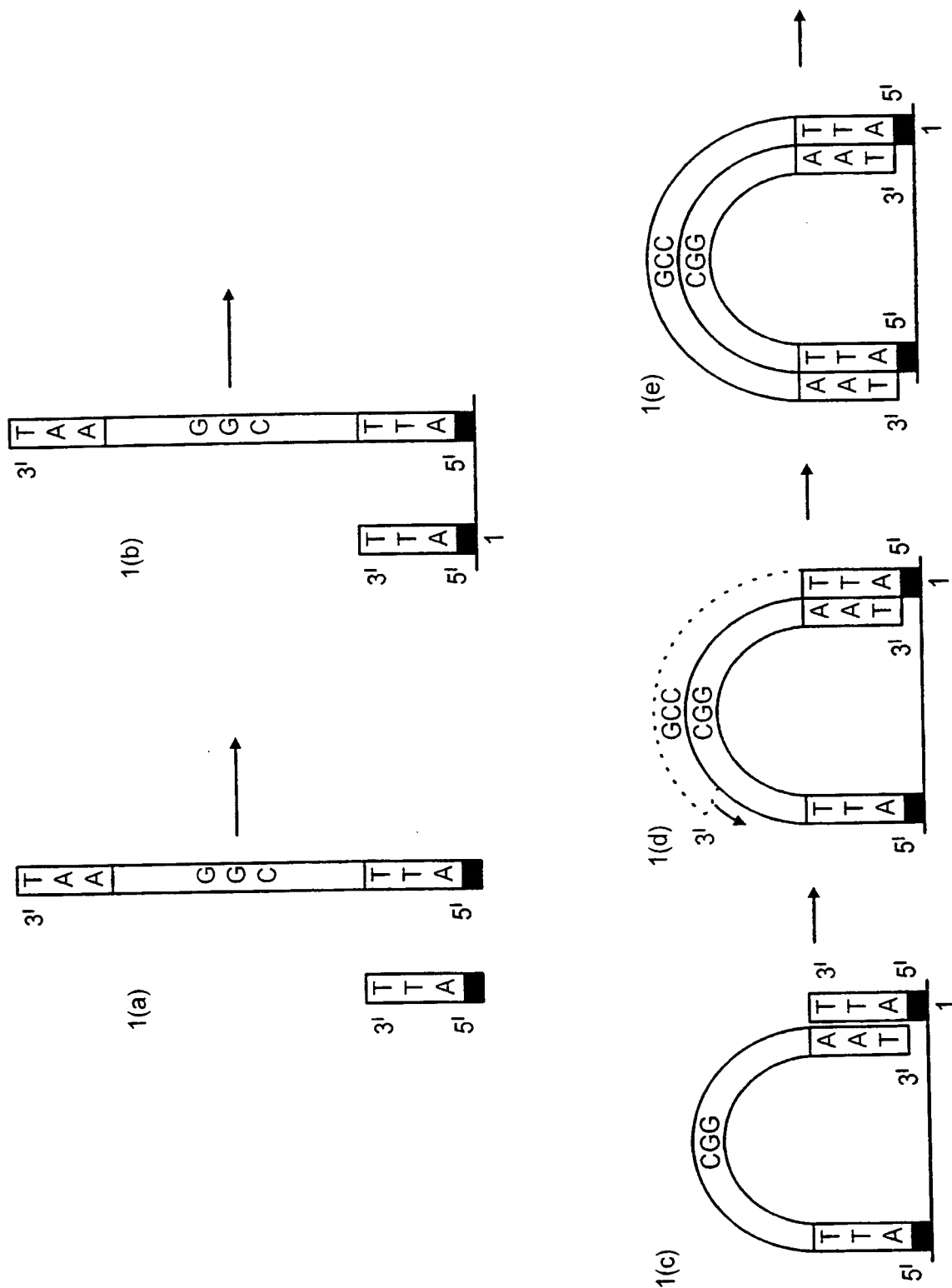


FIG. 1

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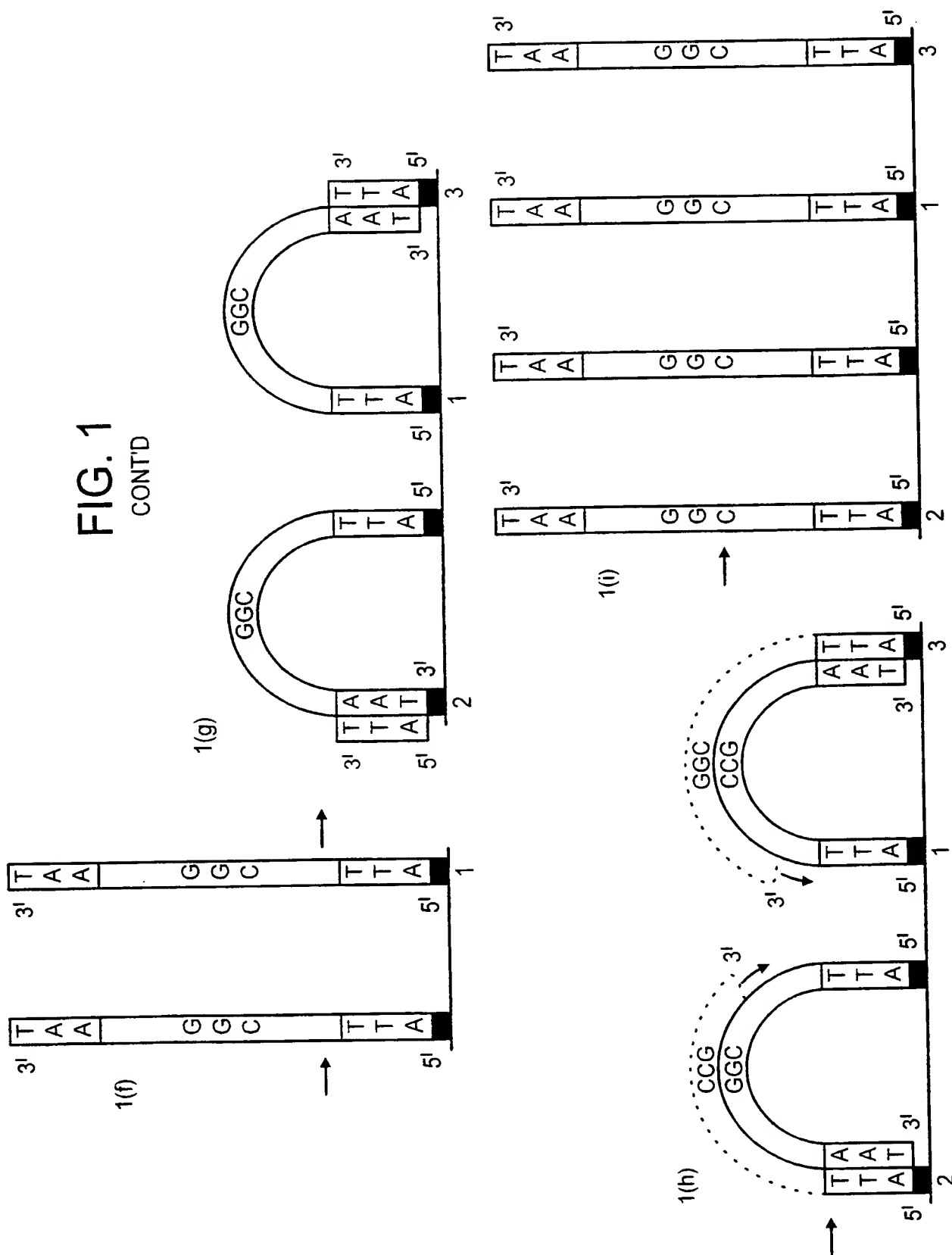
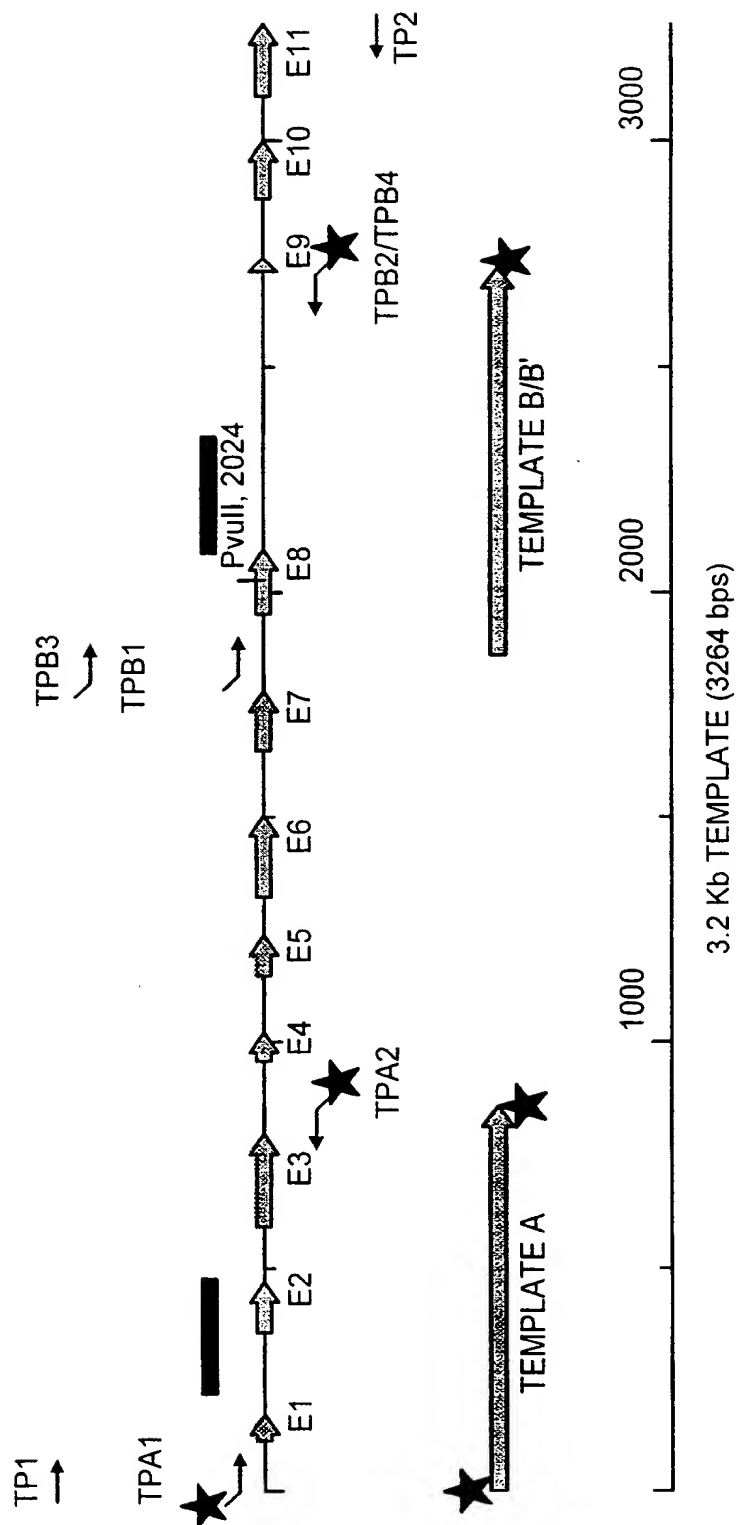


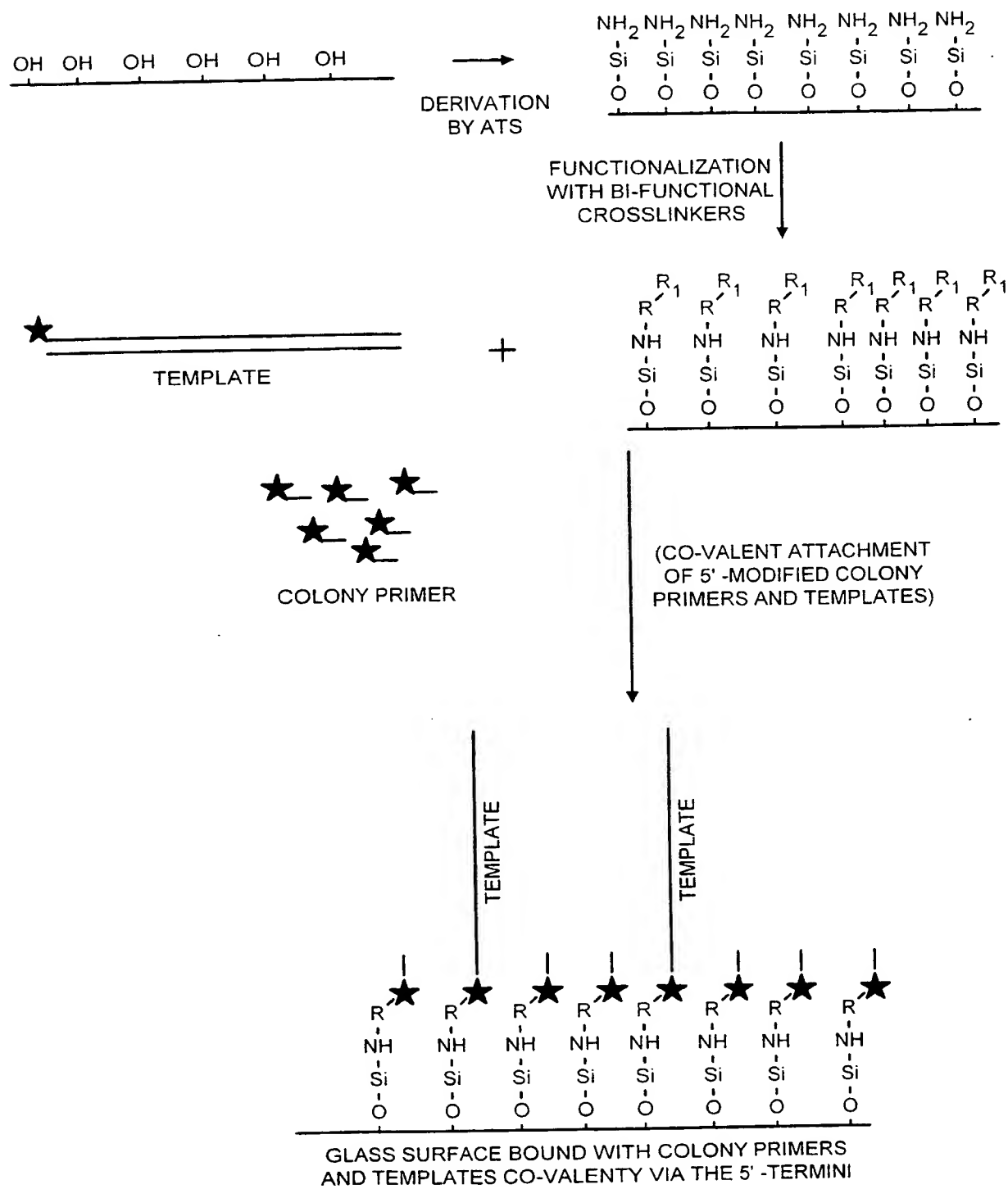
FIG. 2a

PREPARATION OF TEMPLATES CONTAINING COLONY PRIMER SEQUENCES
(LOCATION OF PRIMERS ON RAGE)



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FIG. 2b

CHEMICAL ATTACHMENT OF COLONY PRIMERS AND
COLONY TEMPLATES TO THE SURFACE

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FIG. 3

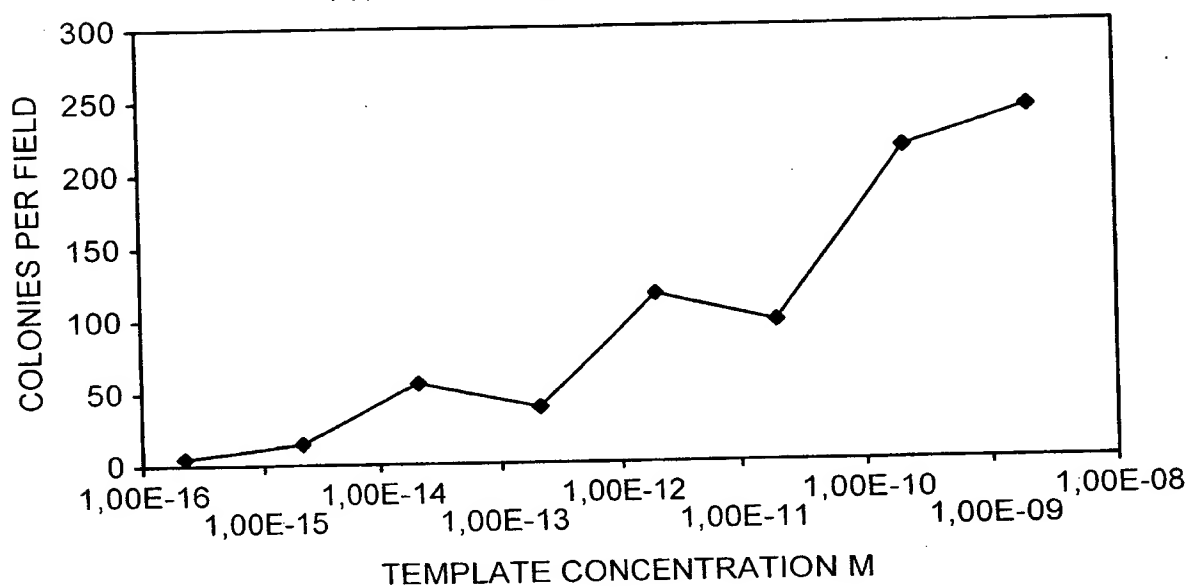
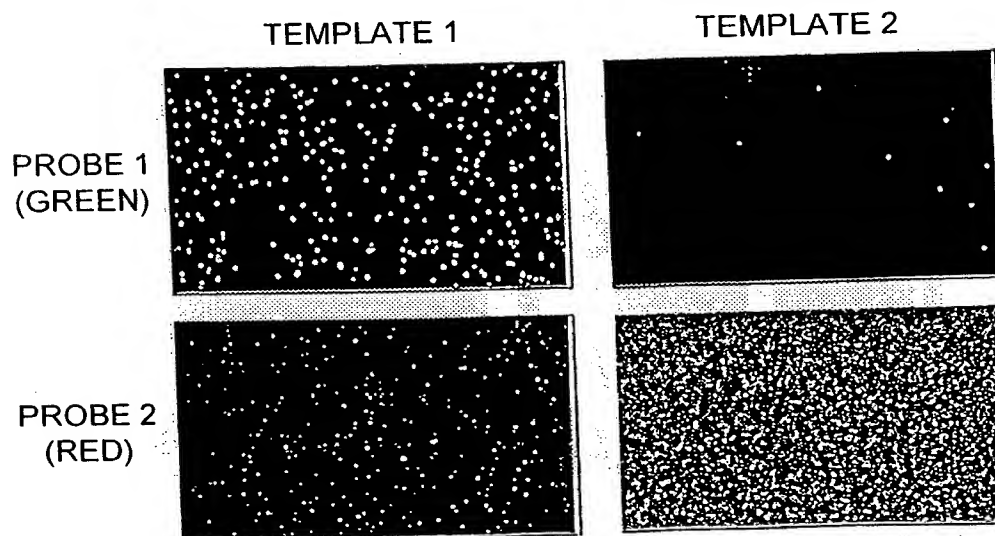
COLONIES FORMED WITH TEMPLATE AND COLONY
PRIMER ATTACHED TO THE SUPPORT

FIG. 4a

SIMULTANEOUS DETECTION OF TWO
INDEPENDENT DNA COLONIES

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FIG. 4b

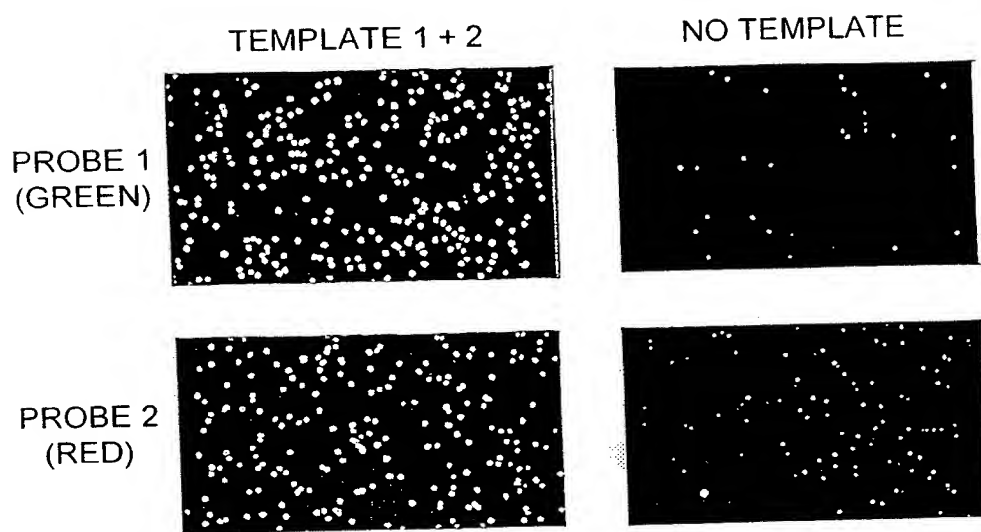
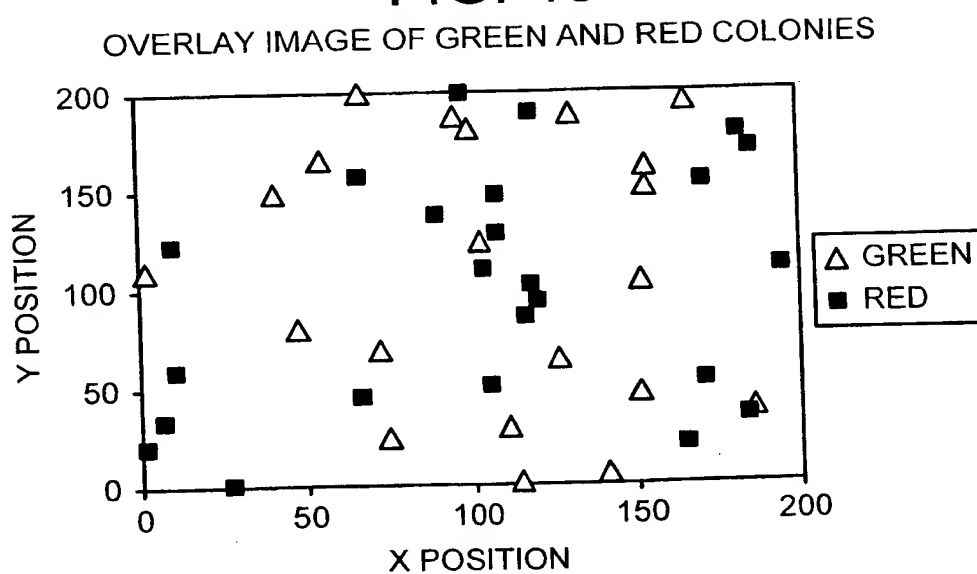


FIG. 4c



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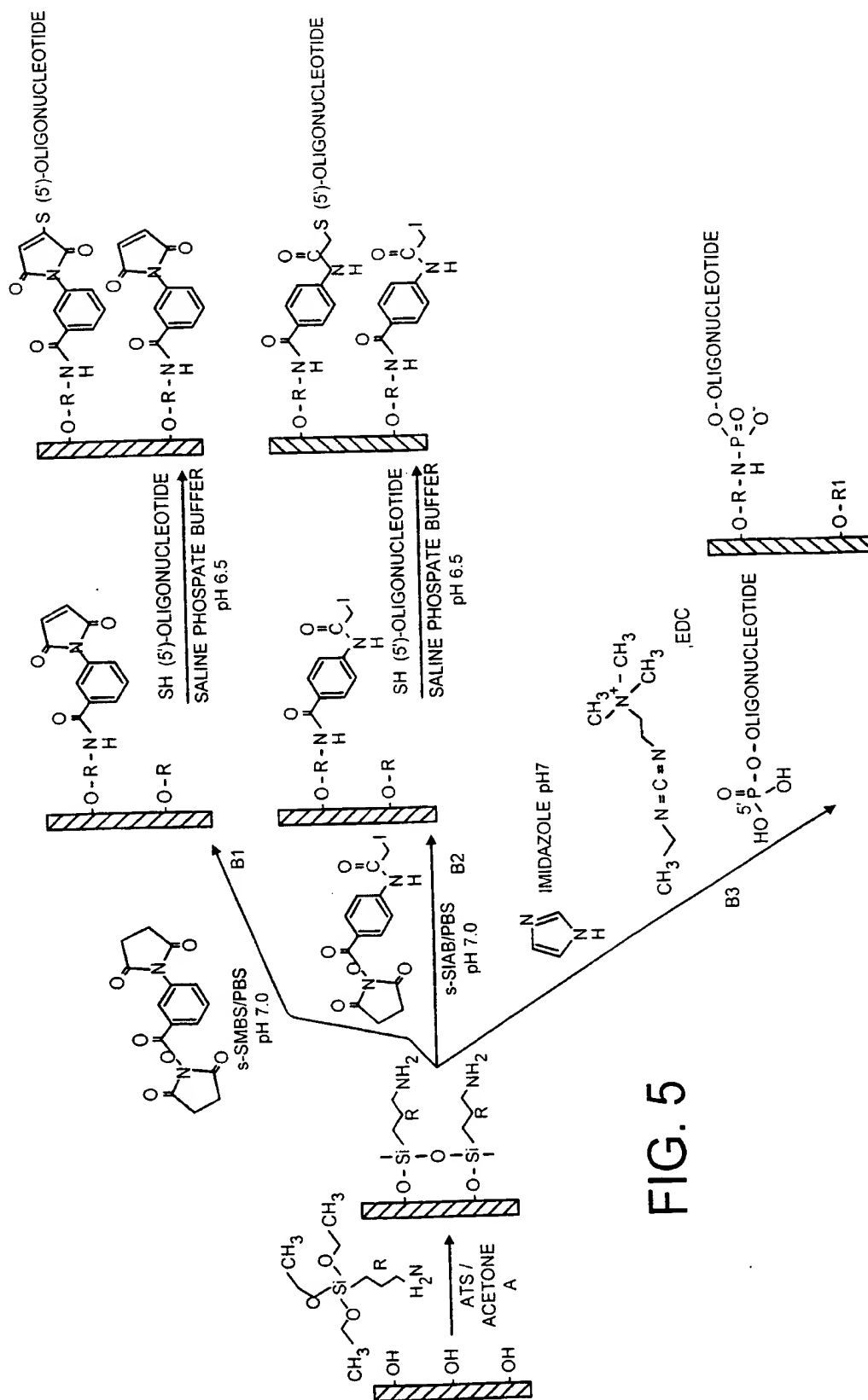
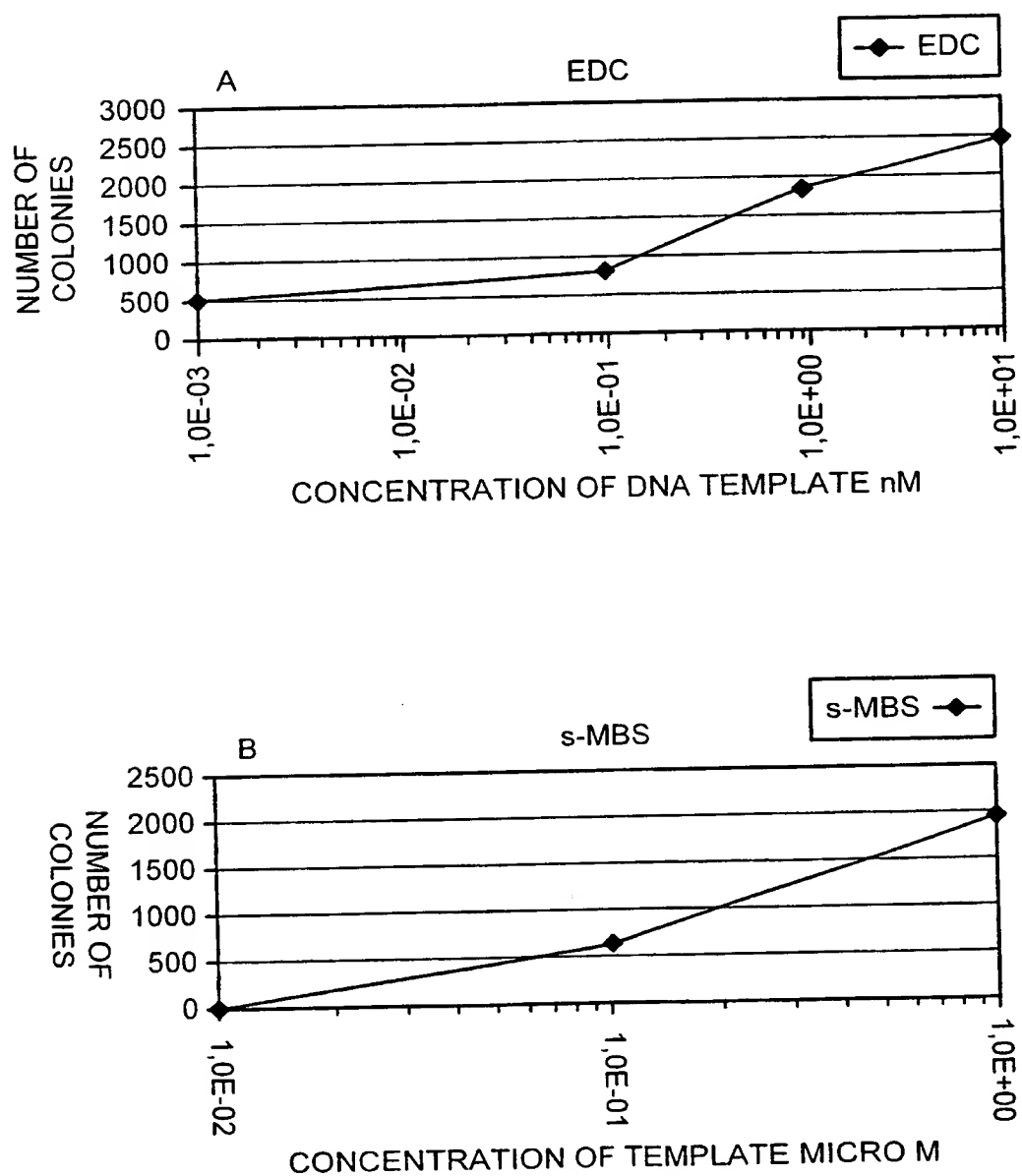


FIG. 5

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FIG. 6

DNA COLONY GENERATION ON GLASS:
EFFECT OF TEMPLATE CONCENTRATION

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(a)



(b)



(c)

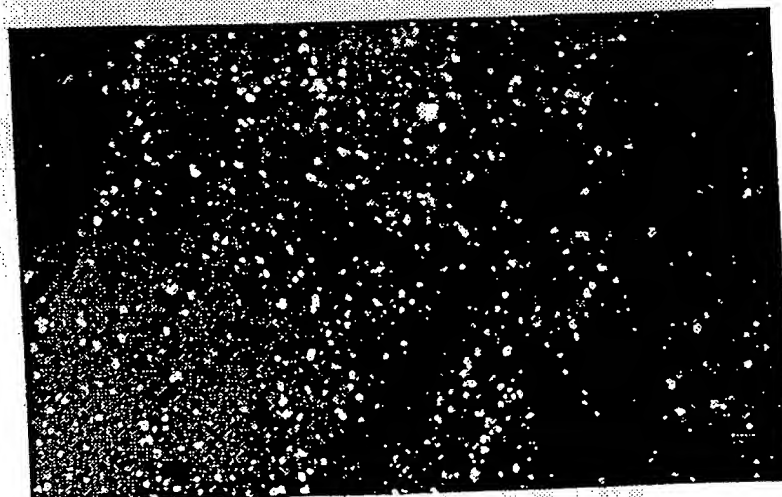
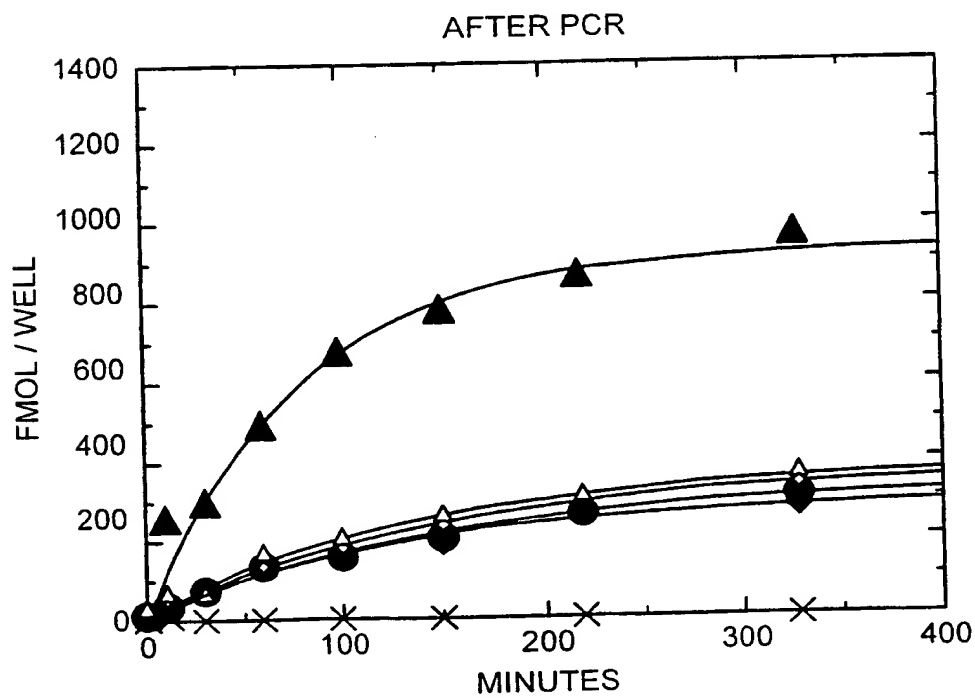
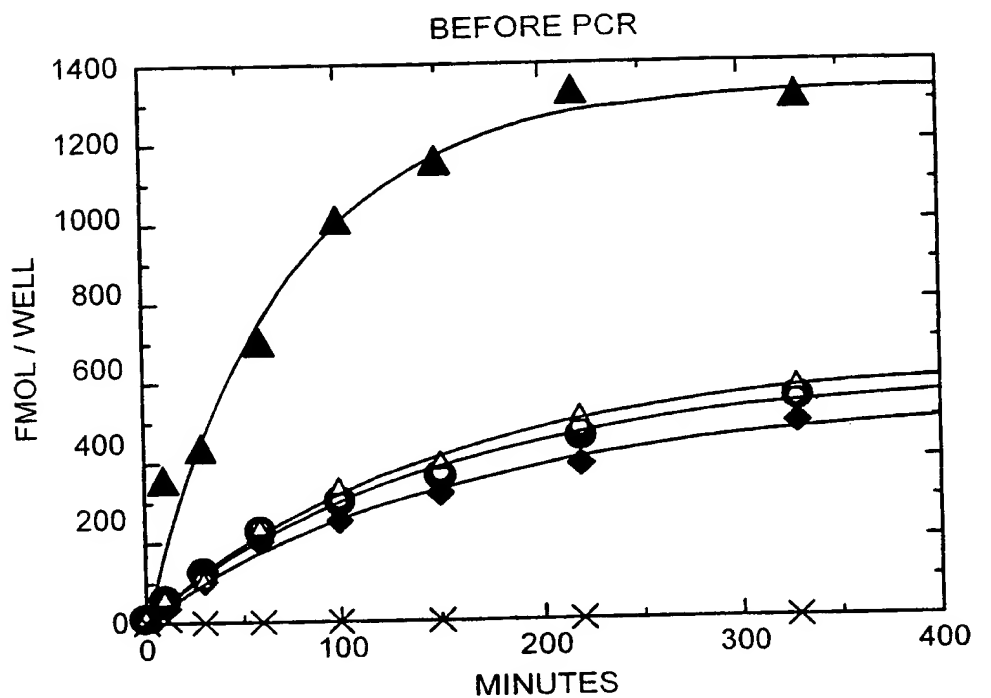


FIG. 7

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

10 / 10

FIG. 8



SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT:

- (A) NAME: Applied Research Systems ARS Holding N.V.
- (B) STREET: 14 John B. Gorsiraweg
- (C) CITY: Curacao
- (E) COUNTRY: Netherlands Antilles
- (F) POSTAL CODE (ZIP): None

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Methods of nucleic acid amplification and sequencing

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 19

(iv) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

- (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
- (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
- (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
- (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30 (EPO)

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

- (A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 1:

AGAAGGAGAA GGAAAGGGAA AGGG

24

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

- (A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2:

CACCAACCCA AACCAACCCA AACC

24

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 3:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 20 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid
 - (A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 3:

GAGGCCAGAA CAGTTCAAGG

20

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 4:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 20 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid
 - (A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 4:

CCTGTGACAA GACGACTGAA

20

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 5:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 34 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid
 - (A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 5:

TTTTTTTTTT CACCAACCCA AACCAACCCA AACC

34

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 34 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

- (A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 6:

TTTTTTTTTTT AGAAGGAGAA GGAAAGGGAA AGGG

34

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 34 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

- (A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 7:

TTTTTTTTTTT CACCAACCCA AACCAACCCA AACC

34

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 34 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

- (A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 8:

TTTTTTTTTTT AGAAGGAGAA GGAAAGGGAA AGGG

34

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 42 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

(A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 9:

AGAAGGAGAA GGAAAGGGAA AGGGTTTTTT TTTTTTTTTT NN

42

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 10:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 26 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

(A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 10:

AGAAGGAGAA GGAAAGGGAA AGGGGG

26

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 11:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 52 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

(A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 11:

AGAAGGAGAA GGAAAGGGAA AGGGGCGGCC GCTCGCCTGG TTCTGGAAGA CA

52

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 12:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 44 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

(A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 12:

AGAAGGAGAA GGAAAGGGAA AGGGCCTGTG ACAAGACGAC TGAA

44

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 13:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 62 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

(A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 13:

TTTTTTTTTTT AGAAGGAGAA GGAAAGGGAA AGGGGCGGCC GCTGAGGCCA GTGGAAGTCA

60

GA

62

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 14:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 60 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

(A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 14:

TTTTTTTTTTT CACCAACCCA AACCAACCCA AACCGAGCTC AGGCTGAGGC AGGAGAATTG

60

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 15:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 44 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

(A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 15:

AGAAGGAGAA GGAAAGGGAA AGGGGAGCTG AGGAGGAAGA GAGG

44

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 16:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 52 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

(A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 16:

AGAAGGAGAA GGAAAGGGAA AGGGGCGGCC GCTCGCCTGG TTCTGGAAGA CA

52

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 17:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 22 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid

(A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: modified_base
- (B) LOCATION:11
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION:/mod_base= i

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: modified_base
- (B) LOCATION:13
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION:/mod_base= i

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: modified_base
- (B) LOCATION:15
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION:/mod_base= i

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- (A) NAME/KEY: modified_base
- (B) LOCATION:17
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION:/mod_base= i

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: modified_base
- (B) LOCATION:19

(D) OTHER INFORMATION: /mod_base= i

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: modified_base
- (B) LOCATION: 21
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /mod_base= i

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 17:

TTTTTTTTTT NSNSNSNSNS NS

22

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 18:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid
 - (A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 18:

CGACAGCCGG AAGGAAGAGG GAGC

24

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 19:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 18 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: other nucleic acid
 - (A) DESCRIPTION: /desc = "oligonucleotide primer"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 19:

GAGAAGGAAA GGGAAAGG

18

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/GB 99/03248

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C12Q1/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C12Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 98 44151 A (FARINELLI LAURENT ;KAWASHIMA ERIC (CH); MAYER PASCAL (CH); GLAXO G) 8 October 1998 (1998-10-08) the whole document ---	1, 5, 19, 24-31
E	WO 98 44152 A (FARINELLI LAURENT ;MAYER PASCAL (CH); KAWASHIMA ERIC H (CH); GLAXO) 8 October 1998 (1998-10-08) the whole document ---	1, 5, 19, 24-31
X	WO 98 36094 A (MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES) 20 August 1998 (1998-08-20) cited in the application page 11, line 27 - line 30; figure 2 --- -/--	1, 5, 19, 24-31

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 February 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/02/2000

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Authorized officer

Osborne, H

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/03248

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	WO 95 33073 A (TEPNEL MEDICAL LTD ;MINTER STEPHEN JOHN (GB)) 7 December 1995 (1995-12-07) the whole document ---	1,5, 24-31
A	WO 94 02634 A (UNIV SOUTH AUSTRALIA ;ADELAIDE CHILDREN S HOSPITAL (AU); HARRIS RA) 3 February 1994 (1994-02-03) claim 1 ---	1
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A	STERKY F ET AL: "Direct sequencing of bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs) and prokaryotic genomes by biotin-capture PCR" JOURNAL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY,NL,ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS, AMSTERDAM, vol. 60, no. 1-2, 5 February 1998 (1998-02-05), pages 119-129, XP004115549 ISSN: 0168-1656 the whole document ---	1 1,4-7
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/03248

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